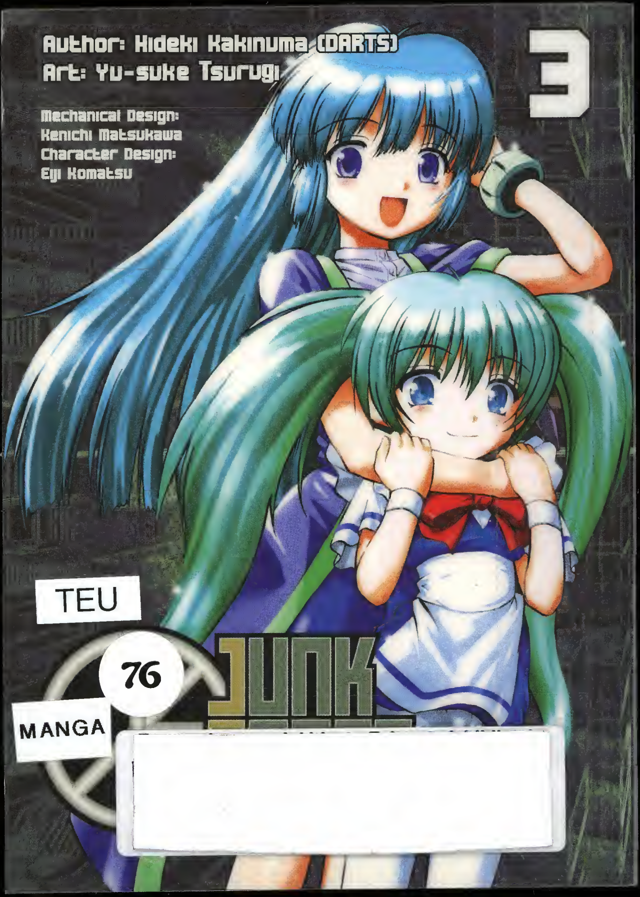


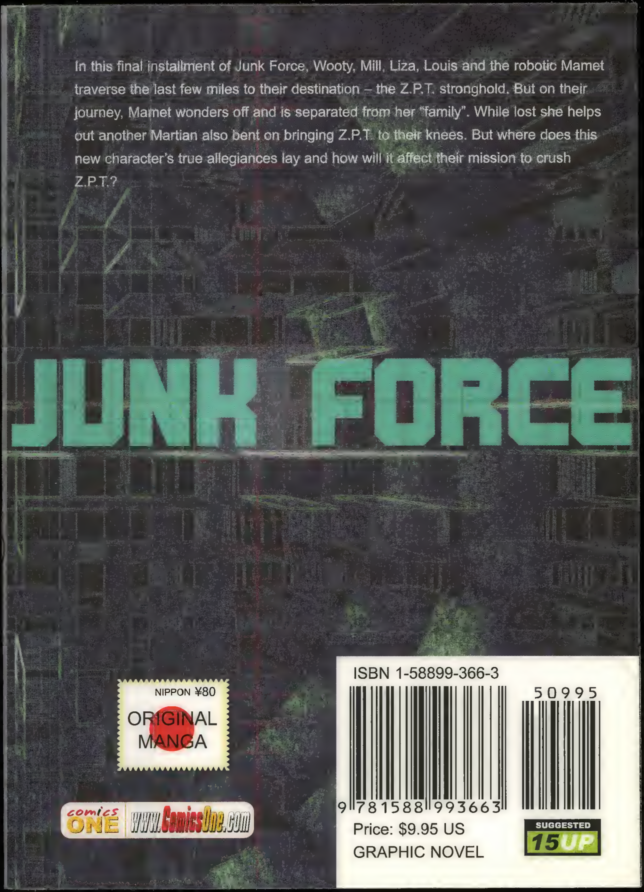
Author: Hideki Kakinuma (DARTS)
Art: Yu-suke Tsurugi

Mechanical Design:
Kenichi Matsukawa
Character Design:
Eiji Komatsu

3

JUNK

TEU
76
MANGA



In this final installment of Junk Force, Wooty, Mill, Liza, Louis and the robotic Mamet traverse the last few miles to their destination – the Z.P.T. stronghold. But on their journey, Mamet wonders off and is separated from her "family". While lost she helps out another Martian also bent on bringing Z.P.T. to their knees. But where does this new character's true allegiances lay and how will it affect their mission to crush Z.P.T.?

JUNK FORCE

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JUNK FORCE
Leave the planet and don't look
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JUNK FORCE

Leave the planet and don't look back!

Author
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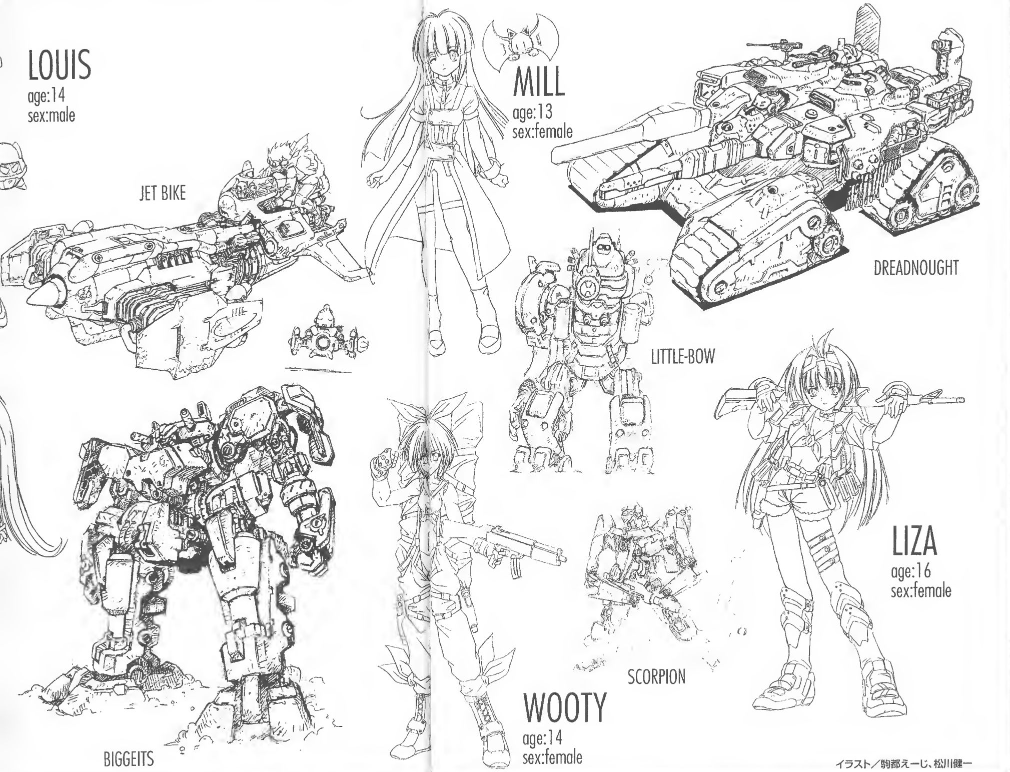
ATA KATA KAT
JUNK FO
LEAVE THE PLANET AND DON'T LOOK

ETTING DATA FILE:CHARACTER&HBT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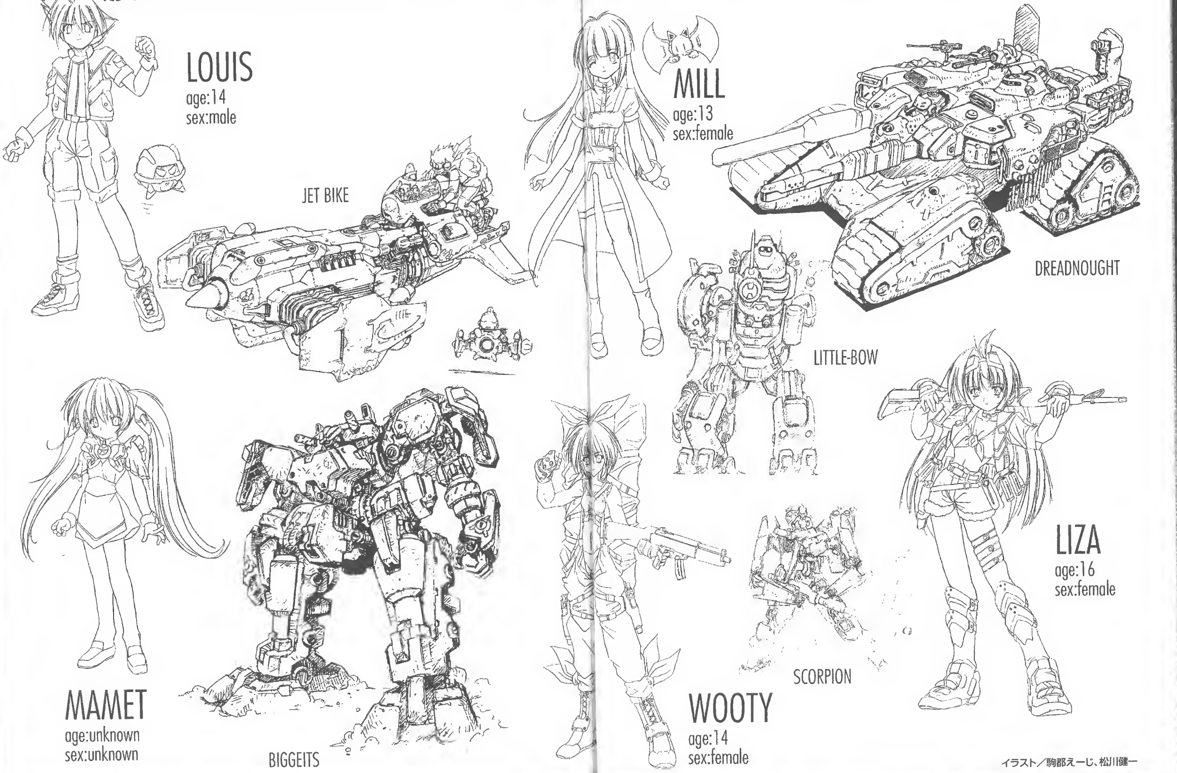
sex:male
JET BIKE
MILL
age:13
sex:female
DREADNOUGHT
LITTLE-BOW
LIZA
age:16
sex:female
SCORPION
WOOTY
age:14
sex:female
BIGGEITS

イラスト／駒都えーじ、松川健一

SETTING DATA FILE:CHARACTER&HBT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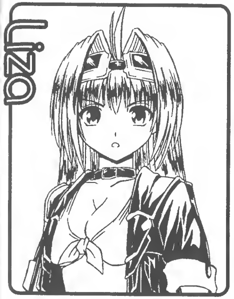
sex:male
JET BIKE
MAMET
age:unknown
sex:unknown
BIGGEITS
MILL
age:13
sex:female
DREADNOUGHT
LITTLE-BOW
LIZA
age:16
sex:female
SCORPION
WOOTY
age:14
sex:female

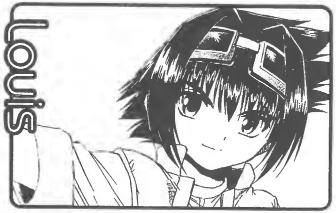
イラスト／駒都えーじ、松川健一

Characters & Story

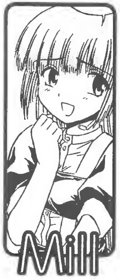
IN THE YEAR 2100, THE OUTBREAK OF THE LAST WORLD WAR (L.L.W.) SPLIT THE HUMAN RACE INTO THE EARTH REGENERATION FACTION AND THE MARS PIONEER FACTION, AND MADE EARTH'S ENVIRONMENT NEARLY INHOSPITABLE. NOW IN THE YEAR 2134, EARTH'S ENVIRONMENT HAS DETERIORATED TO A CRITICAL LEVEL. DESERTIFICATION HAS TAKEN PLACE ON A WIDE SCALE AND A BILLION TONS OF DANGEROUS CHARGED PARTICLES FLOAT THROUGH THE ATMOSPHERE, TURNING THE EARTH INTO A WASTE LAND. ADDING THE ANDROID MAMET TO THEIR PARTY, THE THREE GIRLS (LIZA, WOOTY, AND MILL) AND A BOY (LOUIS) ARE IN THE MIDST OF THEIR ENDLESS JOURNEY TO STOP THE FULLY-AUTOMATED ENVIRONMENT PURIFICATION SYSTEM, ALSO CALLED THE Z.P.T., THAT HAD MYSTERIOUSLY MALFUNCTIONED. DURING THEIR JOURNEY, OUR HEROES LEARN ABOUT THE MARTIANS; MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAD DESERTED EARTH FOR A NEW START ON MARS. THE MARTIANS WERE PLANNING TO COME BACK WITH AN ARMY TO TAKE OVER EARTH BY ANNIHILATING THE CURRENT INHABITANTS. OUR HEROES DROVE THE MARTIAN ARMY AWAY WITH THE HELP OF THE ANTI-MARTIAN EARTH SELF-DEFENSE FORCE (EIHAV), BUT THE MARTIANS WERE STILL MAKING STEADY PROGRESS BEHIND THE SCENES. WITH A FULL SCALE MARTIAN INVASION CLOSE AT HAND, THEIR ONLY CONCERN IS TO GET TO Z.P.T. AS FAST AS POSSIBLE...



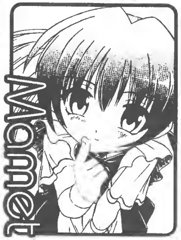
LIZA ▨ A CLEAR AND COOL-MINDED SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD THE TEAM LEADER WHO CAN DO JUST ABOUT ANYTHING.



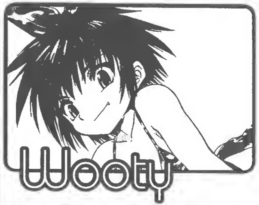
LOUIS ▨ THE ONLY BOY MEMBER A FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD WITH EXPERTISE IN MECHANICS AND GADGETS. ACTUALLY, A MECHANICS BUFF



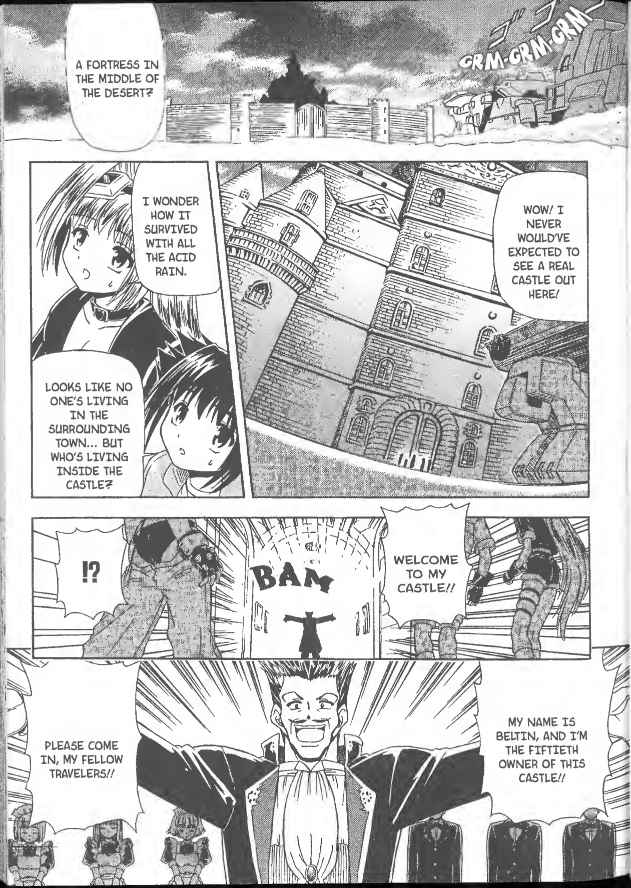
MILL ▨ A THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER OF A WEALTHY FAMILY. HER SPECIALTY IS DRIVING TANKS, AND HER COOKING IS LETHAL.

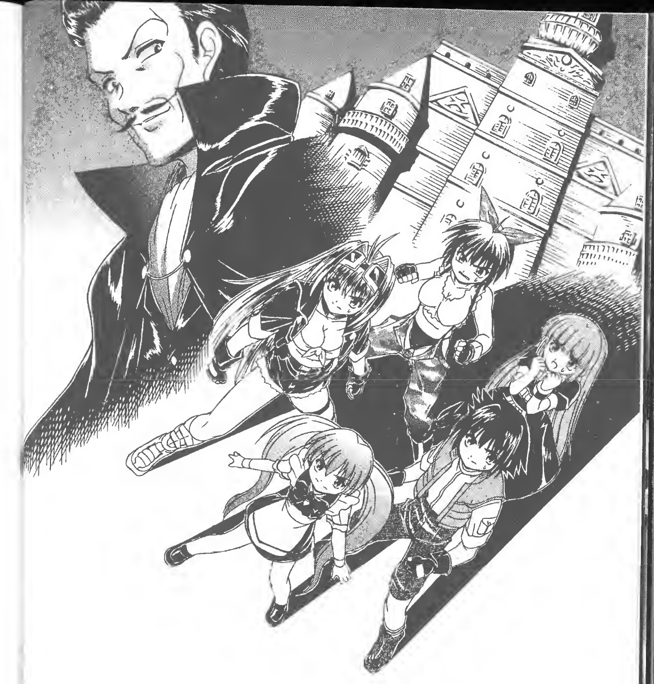


MAMET ▨ A NEARLY INVINCIBLE ANDROID FROM MARS. COMES TO THINK OF LIZA AND LOUIS AS HER PARENTS

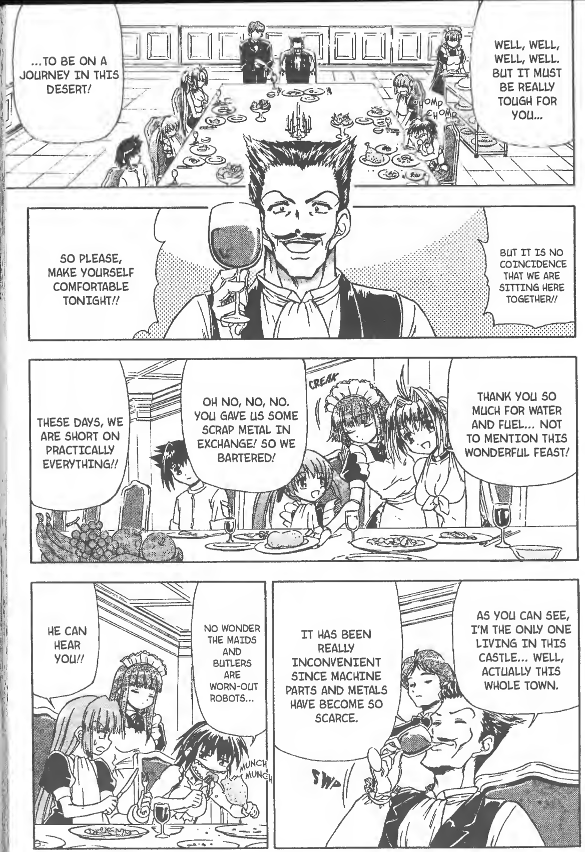


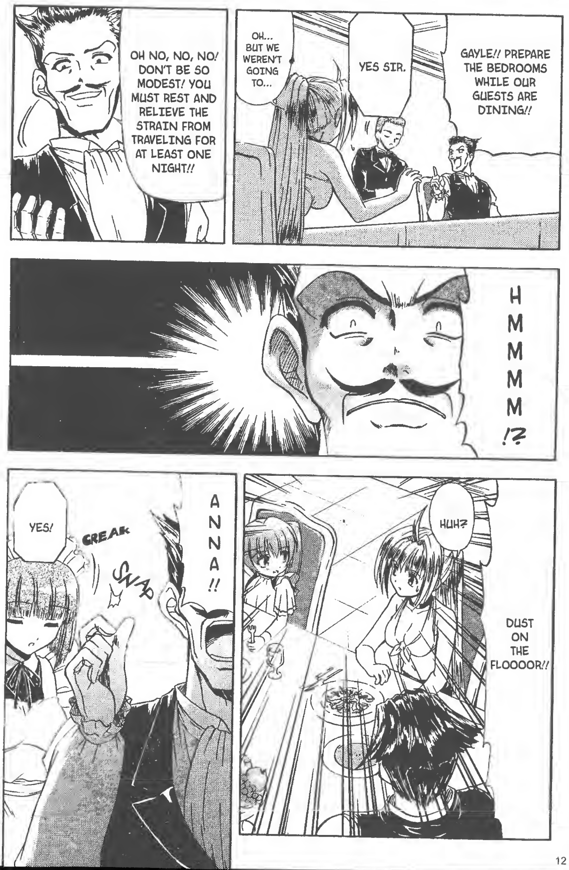
WOOTY ▨ A FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD WHO BOASTS THE BIGGEST BOOBS OF THE GROUP SHORT-TEMPERED AND TOUGH AS NAILS SHE IS A DECENT MECHANIC

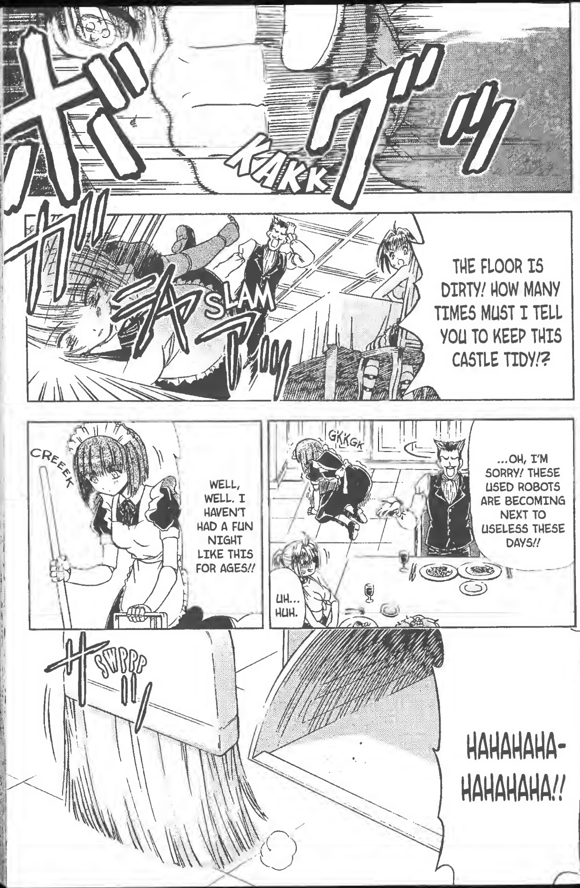

GRM-GRM-GRM
A FORTRESS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT?
WOW! I NEVER WOULD'VE EXPECTED TO SEE A REAL CASTLE OUT HERE!
I WONDER HOW IT SURVIVED WITH ALL THE ACID RAIN.
LOOKS LIKE NO ONE'S LIVING IN THE SURROUNDING TOWN... BUT WHO'S LIVING INSIDE THE CASTLE?
WELCOME TO MY CASTLE!!
BAM
!?
MY NAME IS BELTIN, AND I'M THE FIFTIETH OWNER OF THIS CASTLE!!
PLEASE COME IN, MY FELLOW TRAVELERS!!

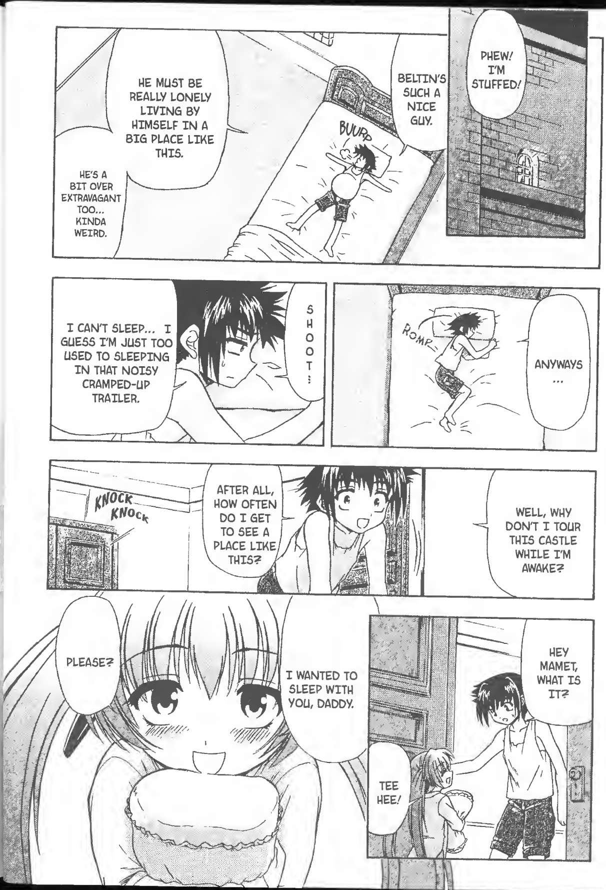


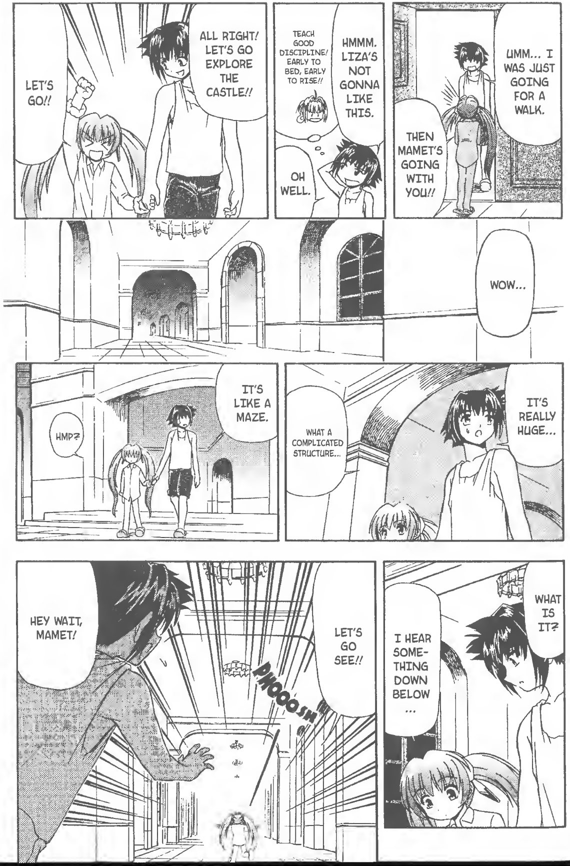
#13 BULLDOG

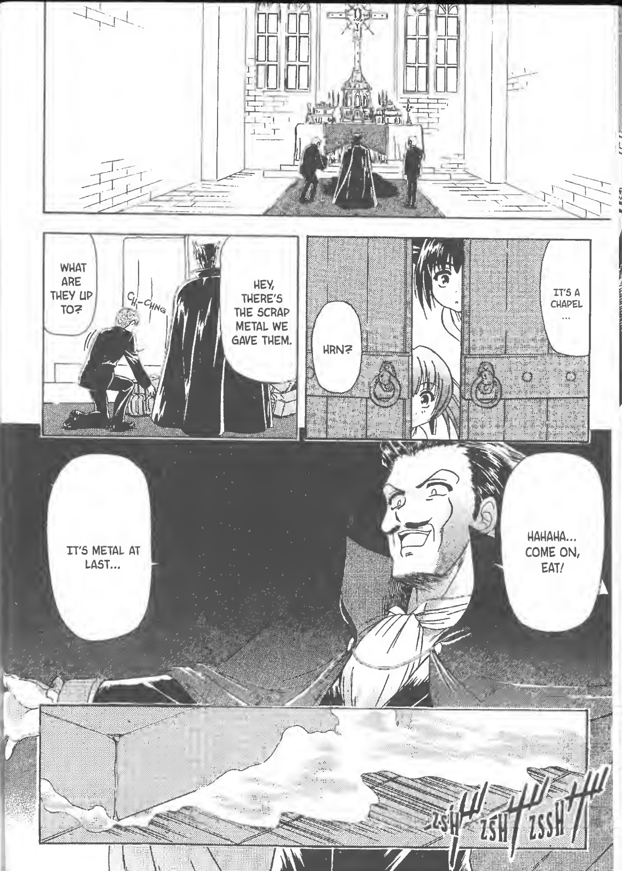

WELL, WELL, WELL, WELL. BUT IT MUST BE REALLY TOUGH FOR YOU...
...TO BE ON A JOURNEY IN THIS DESERT!
CHOMP CHOMP
BUT IT IS NO COINCIDENCE THAT WE ARE SITTING HERE TOGETHER!!
SO PLEASE, MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE TONIGHT!!
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR WATER AND FUEL... NOT TO MENTION THIS WONDERFUL FEAST!
CREAK
OH NO, NO, NO. YOU GAVE US SOME SCRAP METAL IN EXCHANGE! SO WE BARTERED!
THESE DAYS, WE ARE SHORT ON PRACTICALLY EVERYTHING!!
AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M THE ONLY ONE LIVING IN THIS CASTLE... WELL, ACTUALLY THIS WHOLE TOWN.
IT HAS BEEN REALLY INCONVENIENT SINCE MACHINE PARTS AND METALS HAVE BECOME SO SCARCE.
SWP
NO WONDER THE MAIDS AND BUTLERS ARE WORN-OUT ROBOTS...
HE CAN HEAR YOU!!
MUNCH MUNCH

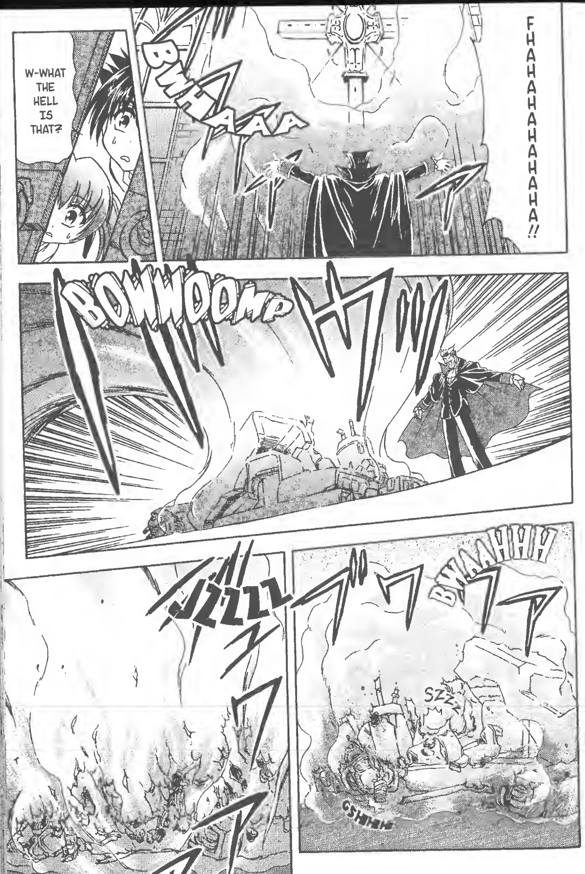

GAYLE!! PREPARE THE BEDROOMS WHILE OUR GUESTS ARE DINING!!
YES SIR.
OH... BUT WE WEREN'T GOING TO...
OH NO, NO, NO! DON'T BE SO MODEST! YOU MUST REST AND RELIEVE THE STRAIN FROM TRAVELING FOR AT LEAST ONE NIGHT!!
HMMMM!?
HUH?
DUST ON THE FLOOOOR!!
ANNA!!
CREAK
SNAP
YES!

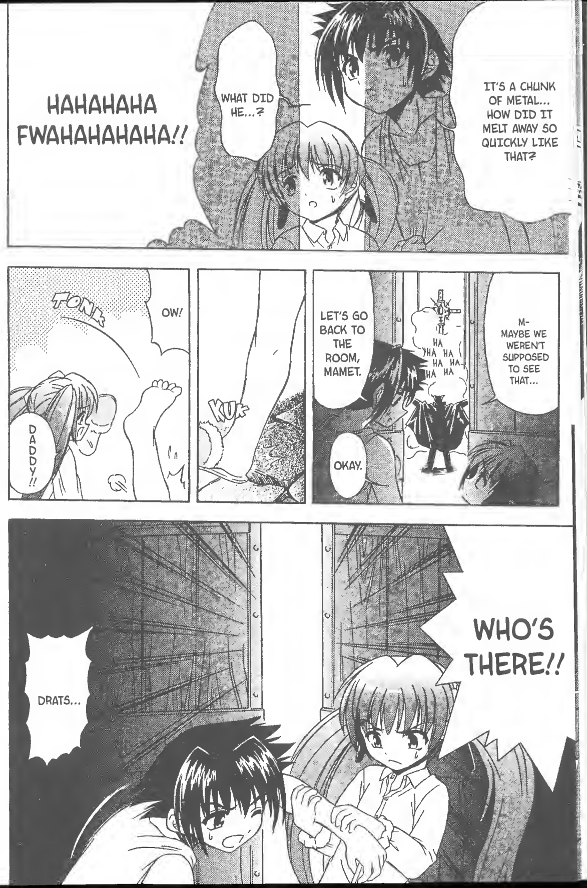

KAKK
SLAM
THE FLOOR IS DIRTY! HOW MANY TIMES MUST I TELL YOU TO KEEP THIS CASTLE TIDY!?
GKKGK
...OH, I'M SORRY! THESE USED ROBOTS ARE BECOMING NEXT TO USELESS THESE DAYS!!
UH... HUH.
CREEEK
WELL, WELL. I HAVEN'T HAD A FUN NIGHT LIKE THIS FOR AGES!!
SWPPP
HAHAHAHA-HAHAHAHA!!

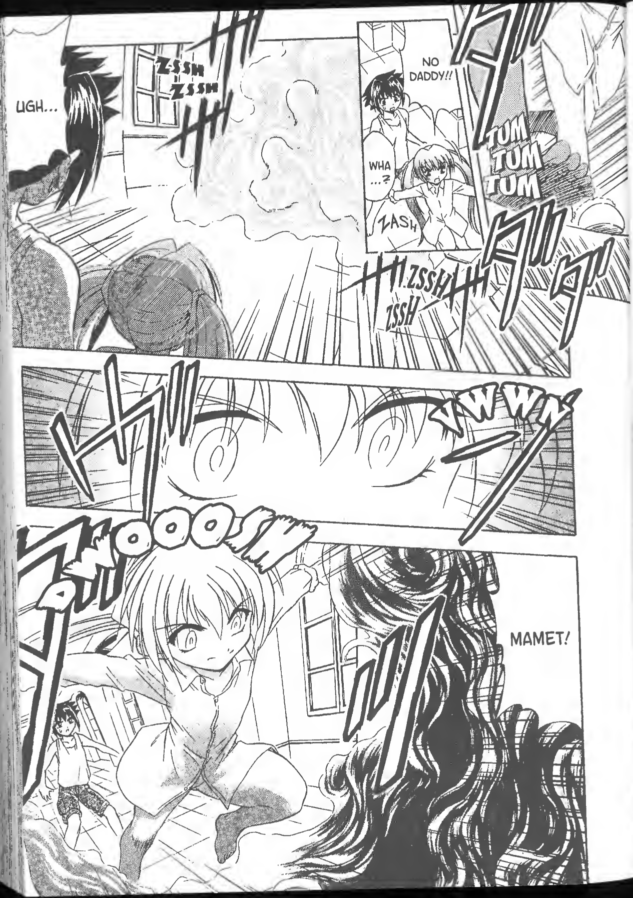

PHEW! I'M STUFFED!
BELTIN'S SUCH A NICE GUY.
HE MUST BE REALLY LONELY LIVING BY HIMSELF IN A BIG PLACE LIKE THIS.
BUURP
HE'S A BIT OVER EXTRAVAGANT TOO... KINDA WEIRD.
ROMP
ANYWAYS ...
SHOOT...
I CAN'T SLEEP... I GUESS I'M JUST TOO USED TO SLEEPING IN THAT NOISY CRAMPED-UP TRAILER.
WELL, WHY DON'T I TOUR THIS CASTLE WHILE I'M AWAKE?
AFTER ALL, HOW OFTEN DO I GET TO SEE A PLACE LIKE THIS?
KNOCK KNOCK
HEY MAMET, WHAT IS IT?
TEE HEE!
I WANTED TO SLEEP WITH YOU, DADDY.
PLEASE?

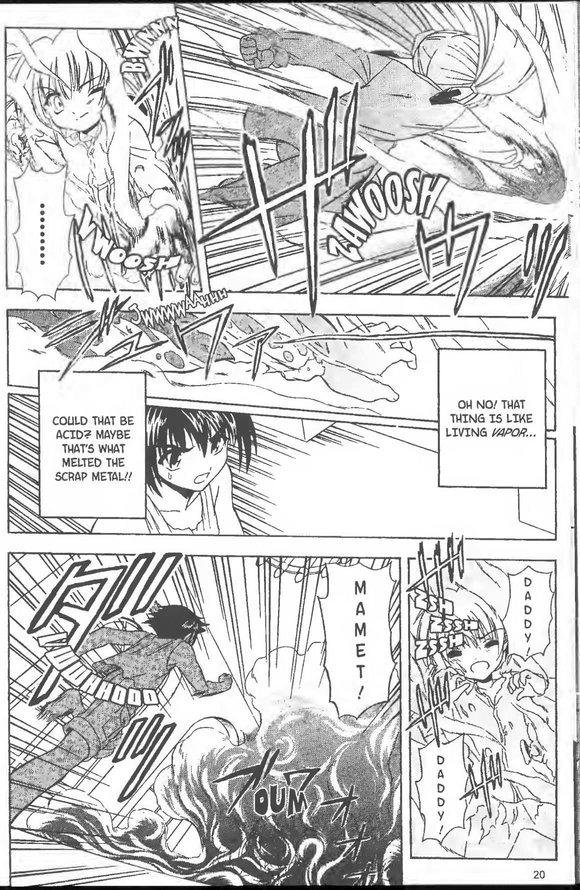

UMM... I WAS JUST GOING FOR A WALK.
THEN MAMET'S GOING WITH YOU!!
HMMM. LIZA'S NOT GONNA LIKE THIS.
TEACH GOOD DISCIPLINE! EARLY TO BED, EARLY TO RISE!!
OH WELL.
ALL RIGHT! LET'S GO EXPLORE THE CASTLE!!
LET'S GO!!
WOW...
IT'S REALLY HUGE...
WHAT A COMPLICATED STRUCTURE...
IT'S LIKE A MAZE.
HMP?
WHAT IS IT?
I HEAR SOMETHING DOWN BELOW ...
LET'S GO SEE!!
PHOOOOSH
HEY WAIT, MAMET!

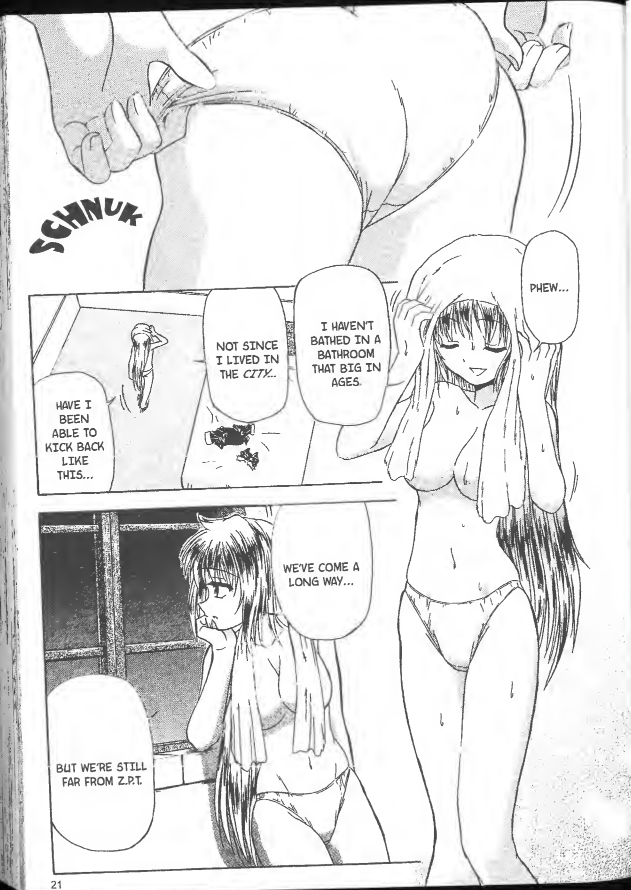

IT'S A CHAPEL ...
HRN?
HEY, THERE'S THE SCRAP METAL WE GAVE THEM.
CH-CHING
WHAT ARE THEY UP TO?
HAHAHA... COME ON, EAT!
IT'S METAL AT LAST...
ZSSH ZSSH ZSH

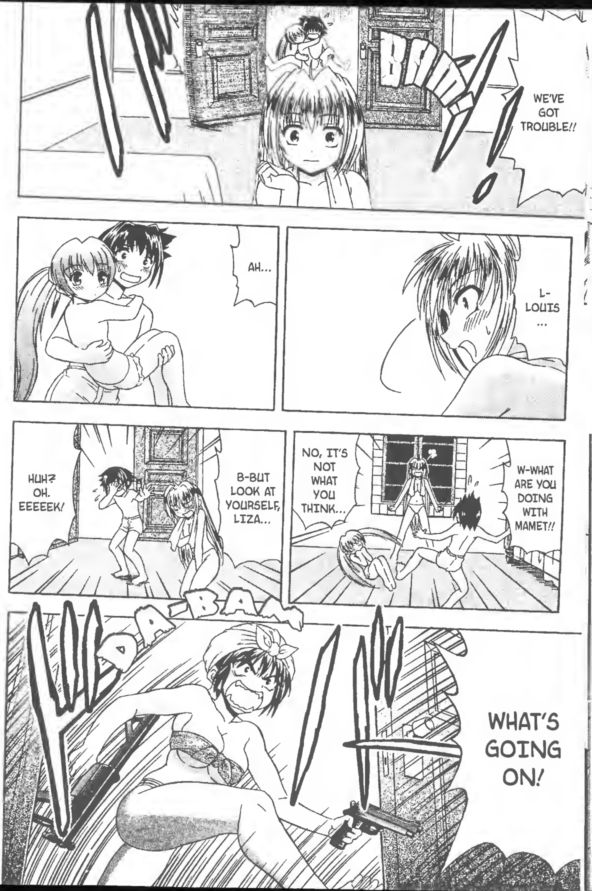

FHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!!
BWHAAAA
W-WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
BOWWOOMP
BWAAHHH
SZZ
GSHHHH
JZZZZZ

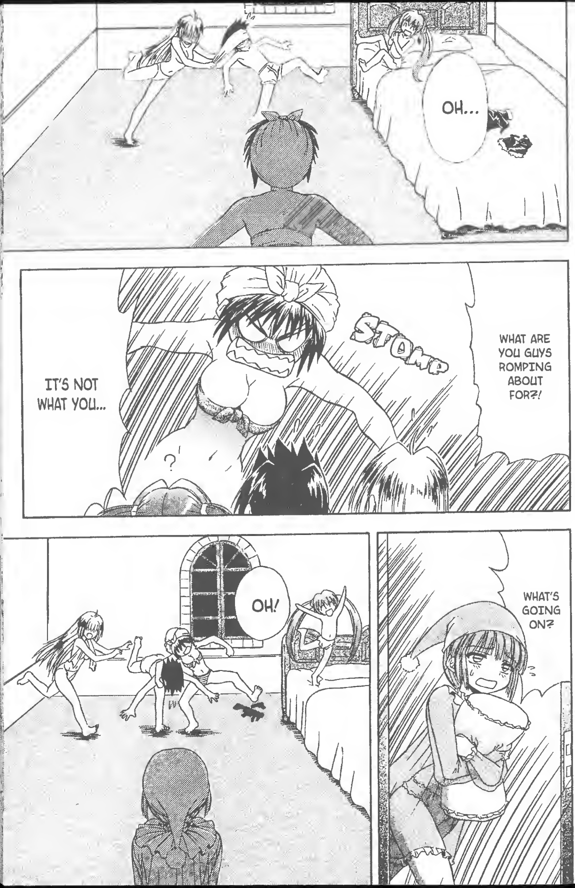

IT'S A CHUNK OF METAL... HOW DID IT MELT AWAY SO QUICKLY LIKE THAT?
WHAT DID HE...?
HAHAHAHA FWAHAHAHAHA!!
M-MAYBE WE WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO SEE THAT...
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
LET'S GO BACK TO THE ROOM, MAMET.
OKAY.
KUK
OW!
TONK
DADDY!!
WHO'S THERE!!
DRATS...

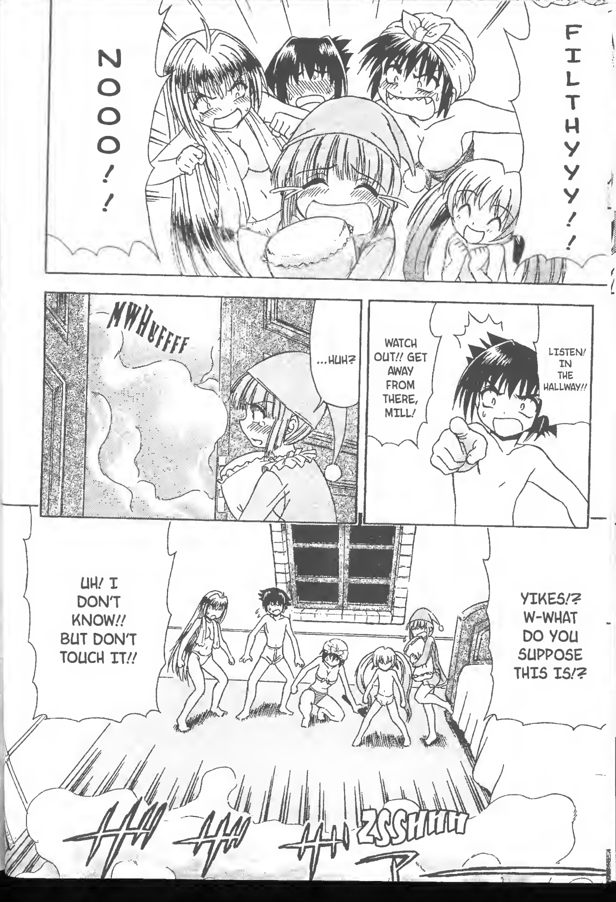

TUM TUM TUM
NO DADDY!!
WHA...?
ZASH
ZSSH ZSSH
ZSSH ZSSH
UGH...
VWWN
MAMET!
WHOOOSH

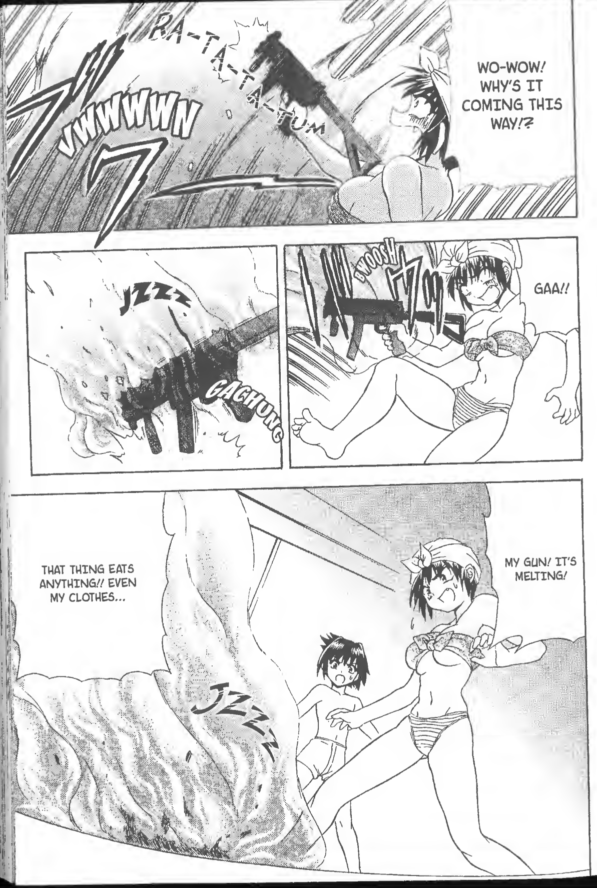

BWNNNN
......
WHOOSH
ZAWOOSH
JWWWWAAHHH
OH NO! THAT THING IS LIKE LIVING *VAPOR*...
COULD THAT BE ACID? MAYBE THAT'S WHAT MELTED THE SCRAP METAL!!
DADDY!
ZSSH
ZSSH
ZSSH
DADDY!
MAMET!
WUHHOOO
OUM

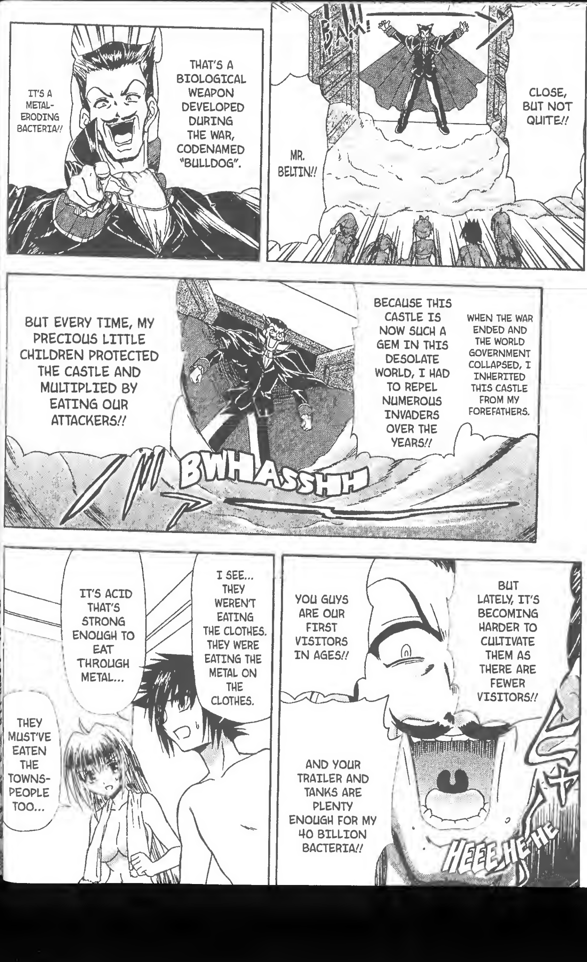

SCHNUK
PHEW...
I HAVEN'T BATHED IN A BATHROOM THAT BIG IN AGES.
NOT SINCE I LIVED IN THE *CITY*...
HAVE I BEEN ABLE TO KICK BACK LIKE THIS...
WE'VE COME A LONG WAY...
BUT WE'RE STILL FAR FROM Z.P.T.

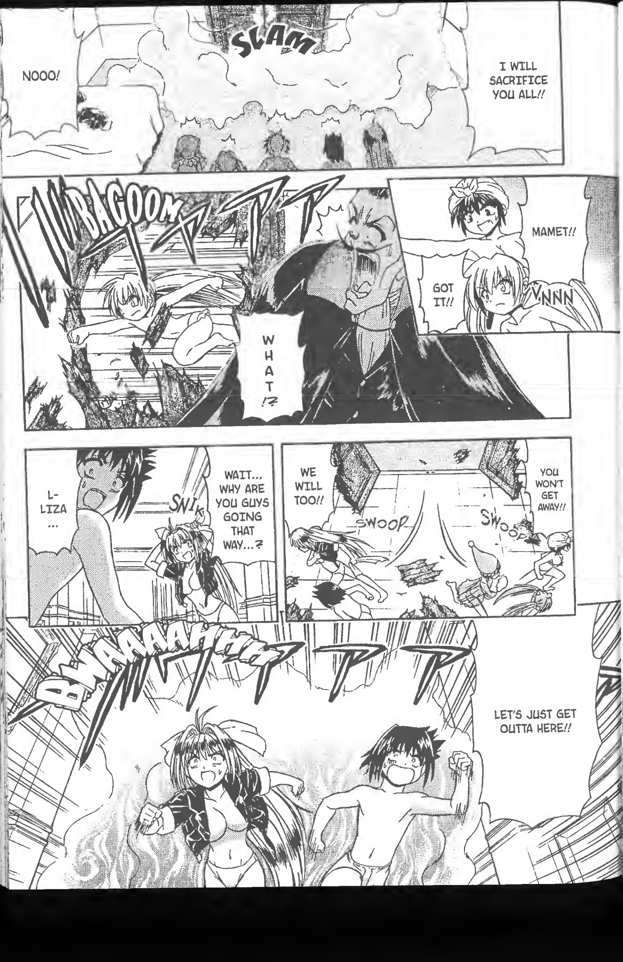

BAM
WE'VE GOT TROUBLE!!
L-LOUIS...
AH...
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH MAMET!!
NO, IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK...
B-BUT LOOK AT YOURSELF, LIZA...
HUH? OH. EEEEEK!
DA-BAAN
WHAT'S GOING ON!

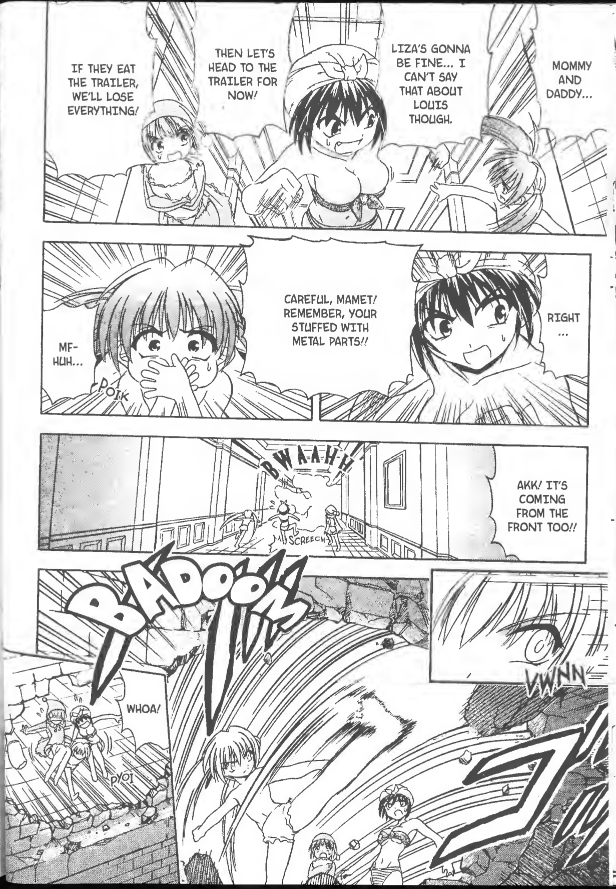

OH...
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS ROMPING ABOUT FOR?!
STOMP
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU...
?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
OH!

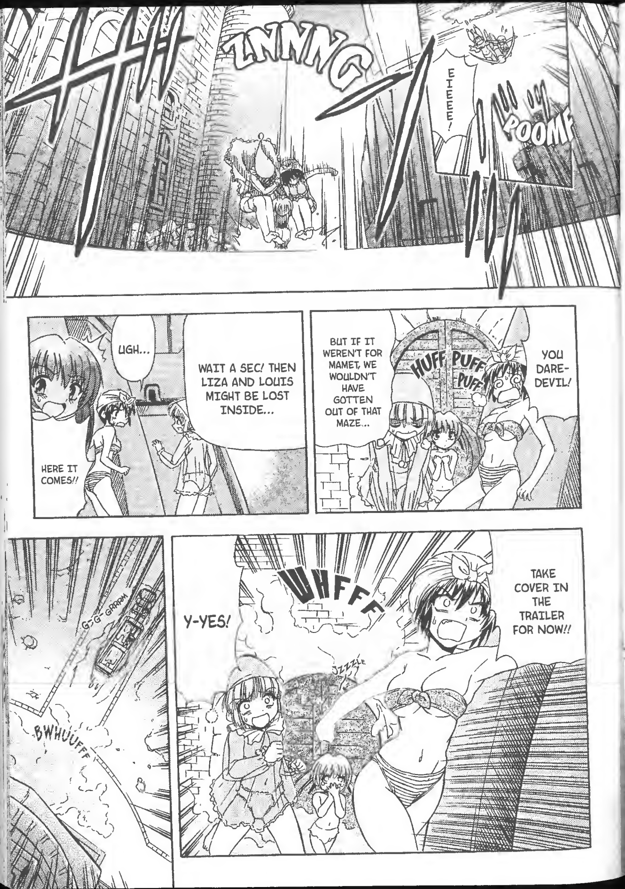

FILTHYYY!!
NOOOO!!
LISTEN! IN THE HALLWAY!!
WATCH OUT!! GET AWAY FROM THERE, MILL!
...HUH?
NWHUFFFF
YIKES!? W-WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE THIS IS!?
UH! I DON'T KNOW!! BUT DON'T TOUCH IT!!
ZSSHHH

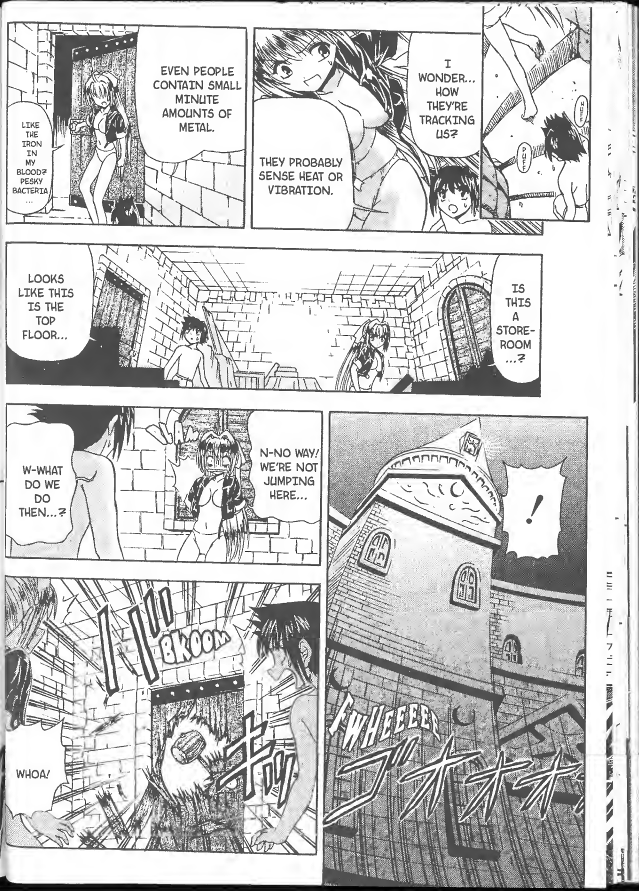

WO-WOW! WHY'S IT COMING THIS WAY!?
RA-TA-TA-TUM
VWWWWWN
GAA!!
BWOOSH
JZZZ
GACHUNG
MY GUN! IT'S MELTING!
THAT THING EATS ANYTHING!! EVEN MY CLOTHES...
JZZZZ

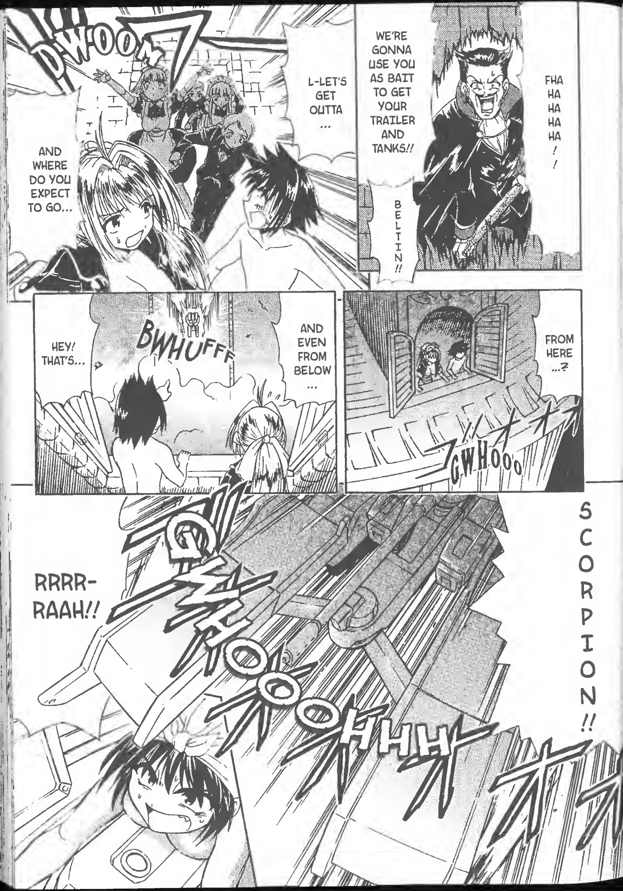

BAM!!
CLOSE, BUT NOT QUITE!!
MR. BELTIN!!
THAT'S A BIOLOGICAL WEAPON DEVELOPED DURING THE WAR, CODENAMED "BULLDOG".
IT'S A METAL-ERODING BACTERIA!!
WHEN THE WAR ENDED AND THE WORLD GOVERNMENT COLLAPSED, I INHERITED THIS CASTLE FROM MY FOREFATHERS.
BECAUSE THIS CASTLE IS NOW SUCH A GEM IN THIS DESOLATE WORLD, I HAD TO REPEL NUMEROUS INVADERS OVER THE YEARS!!
BUT EVERY TIME, MY PRECIOUS LITTLE CHILDREN PROTECTED THE CASTLE AND MULTIPLIED BY EATING OUR ATTACKERS!!
BWHASSHH
BUT LATELY, IT'S BECOMING HARDER TO CULTIVATE THEM AS THERE ARE FEWER VISITORS!!
YOU GUYS ARE OUR FIRST VISITORS IN AGES!!
AND YOUR TRAILER AND TANKS ARE PLENTY ENOUGH FOR MY 40 BILLION BACTERIA!!
HEEE HE HE
I SEE... THEY WEREN'T EATING THE CLOTHES. THEY WERE EATING THE METAL ON THE CLOTHES.
IT'S ACID THAT'S STRONG ENOUGH TO EAT THROUGH METAL...
THEY MUST'VE EATEN THE TOWNS-PEOPLE TOO...

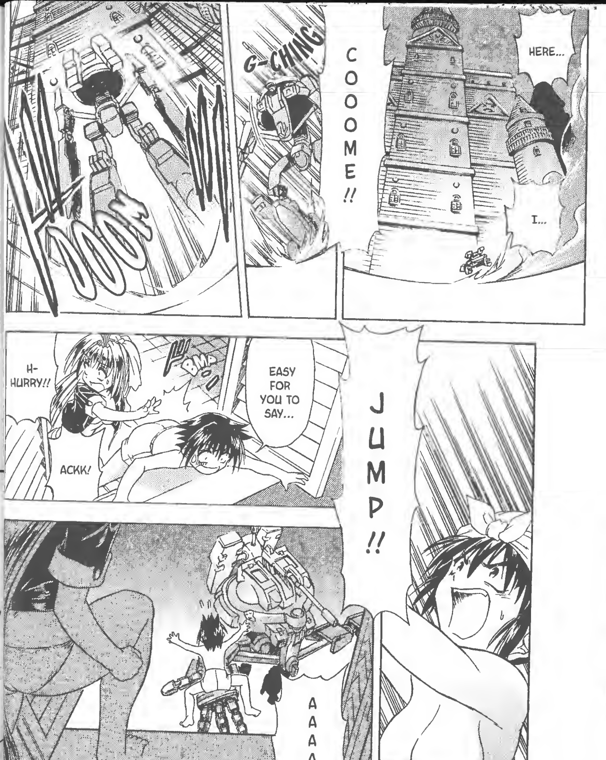

I WILL SACRIFICE YOU ALL!!
SLAM
NOOO!
MAMET!!
GOT IT!!
VNNN
BAGOOM
WHAT!?
YOU WON'T GET AWAY!!
SWOOP
SWOOP
WE WILL TOO!!
WAIT... WHY ARE YOU GUYS GOING THAT WAY...?
SNIK
L-LIZA...
LET'S JUST GET OUTTA HERE!!
BWAAAAHHH

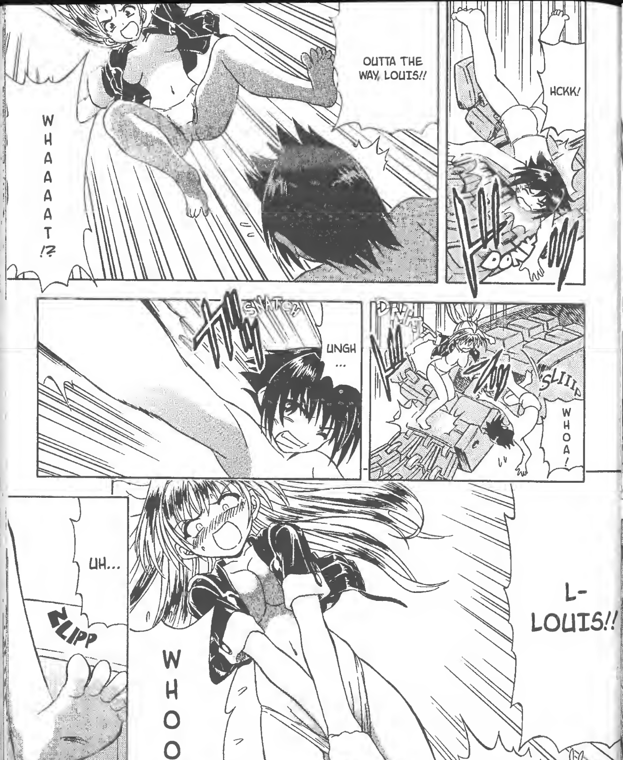

MOMMY AND DADDY...
LIZA'S GONNA BE FINE... I CAN'T SAY THAT ABOUT LOUIS THOUGH.
THEN LET'S HEAD TO THE TRAILER FOR NOW!
IF THEY EAT THE TRAILER, WE'LL LOSE EVERYTHING!
RIGHT...
CAREFUL, MAMET! REMEMBER, YOUR STUFFED WITH METAL PARTS!!
MF-HUH...
POIK
AKK! IT'S COMING FROM THE FRONT TOO!!
BWAAHH
SCREECH
VWNN
BADOOOM
WHOA!
PYOI

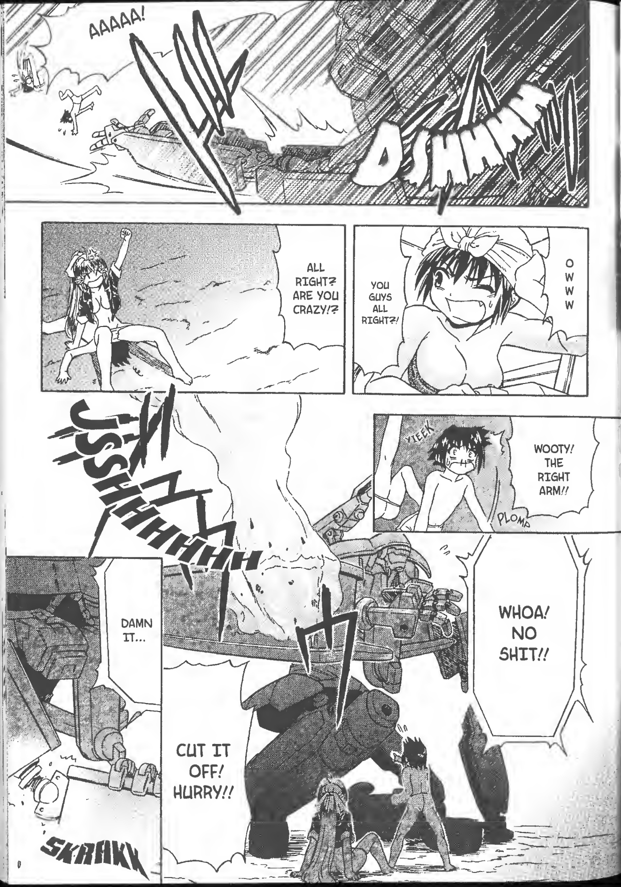

ROOMF
EIEEE!
ZNNNG
YOU DAREDEVIL!
HUFF PUFF PUFF
BUT IF IT WEREN'T FOR MAMET, WE WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF THAT MAZE...
WAIT A SEC! THEN LIZA AND LOUIS MIGHT BE LOST INSIDE...
UGH...
HERE IT COMES!!
TAKE COVER IN THE TRAILER FOR NOW!!
WHFFF
JZZZLE
Y-YES!
G-G-GRRRM
BWHUUFFF

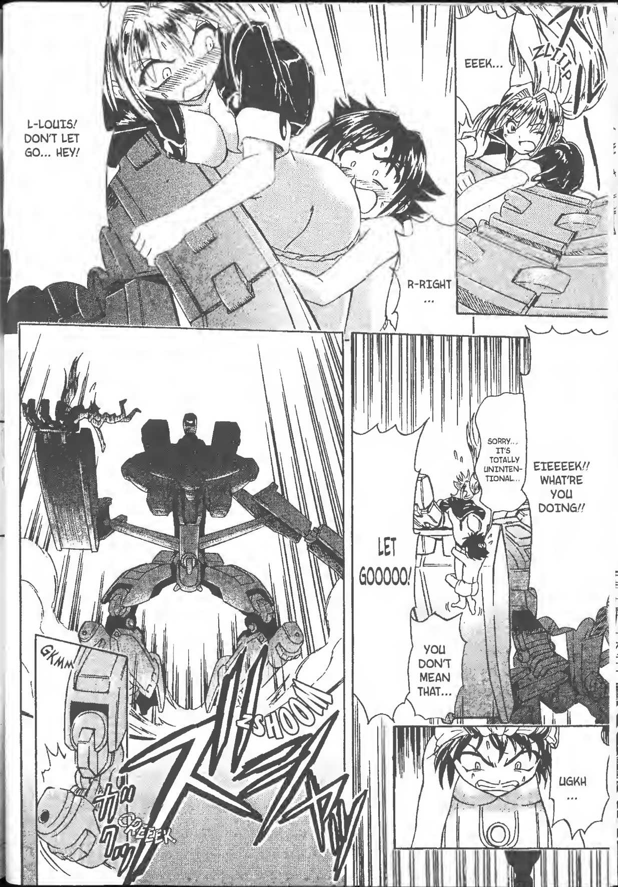

I WONDER... HOW THEY'RE TRACKING US?
PUFF
PUFF
THEY PROBABLY SENSE HEAT OR VIBRATION.
EVEN PEOPLE CONTAIN SMALL MINUTE AMOUNTS OF METAL.
LIKE THE IRON IN MY BLOOD? PESKY BACTERIA ...
IS THIS A STORE-ROOM ...?
LOOKS LIKE THIS IS THE TOP FLOOR...
!
FWHEEEE
ゴオオオ
N-NO WAY! WE'RE NOT JUMPING HERE...
W-WHAT DO WE DO THEN...?
BKOOM
ギッ
WHOA!

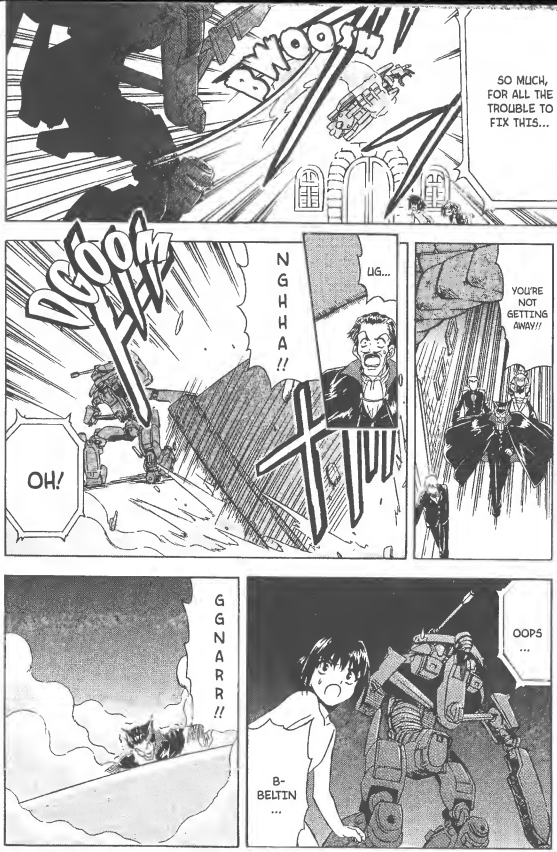

FHA HA HA HA HA !!
BELTIN!!
WE'RE GONNA USE YOU AS BAIT TO GET YOUR TRAILER AND TANKS!!
L-LET'S GET OUTTA ...
AND WHERE DO YOU EXPECT TO GO...
D-WOOM
FROM HERE ...?
GWHOOO
AND EVEN FROM BELOW ...
BWHUFFF
HEY! THAT'S...
SCORPION!!
GWHOOOOOHHH
オオ
RRRR-RAAH!!

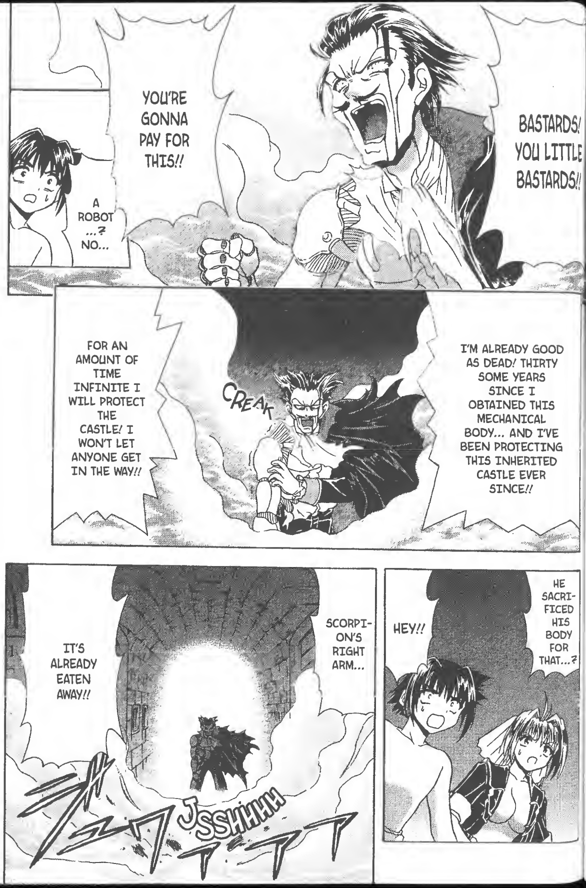

HERE...
I...
COOOOME!!
G-CHING
BOOOM
JUMP!!
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY...
BMP
H-HURRY!!
ACKK!
AAAAAA!

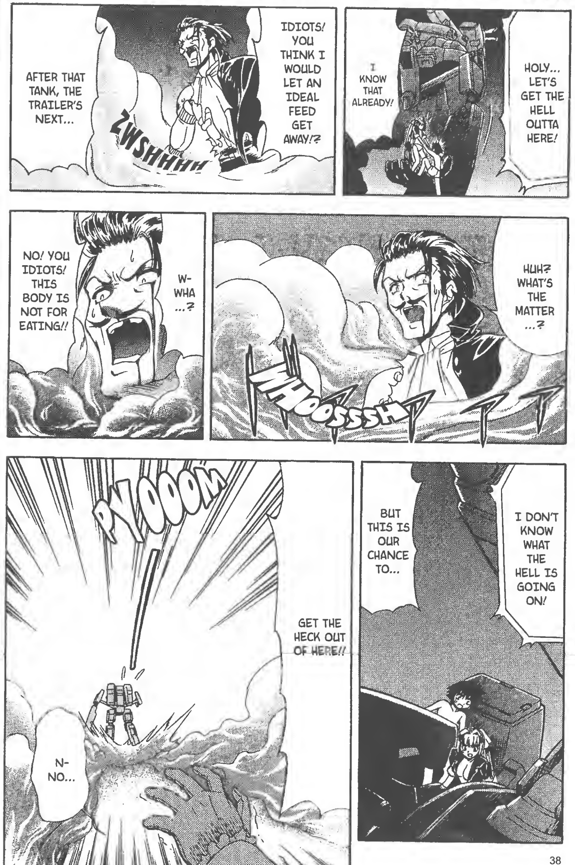

HCKK!
DONK
OUTTA THE WAY, LOUIS!!
WHAAAAT!?
SLIIIP
WHOA!
UNGH...
SNATCH
L-LOUIS!!
WHOOAAHH
UH...
ZLIPP

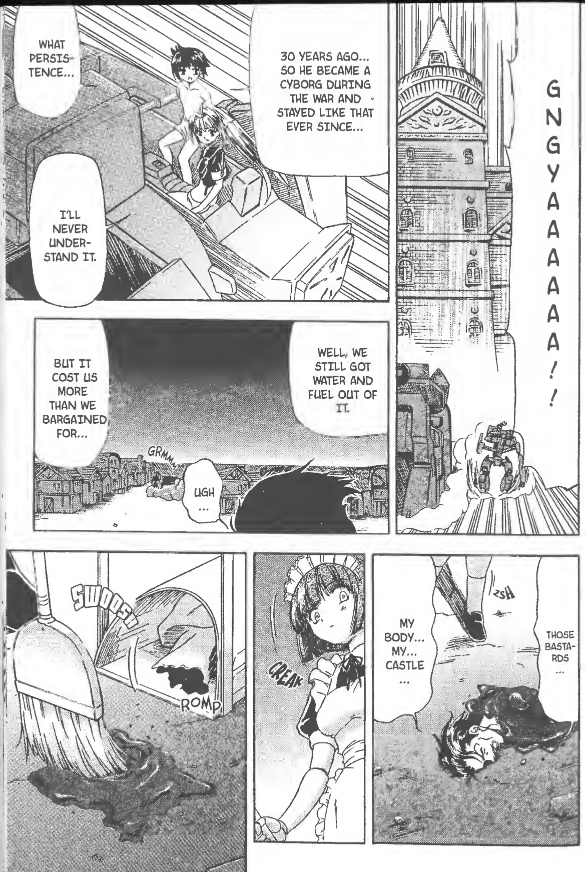

AAAAA!
DSHHAAA
OWWW
YOU GUYS ALL RIGHT?!
ALL RIGHT?! ARE YOU CRAZY!?
JSSHHHHHHH
WOOTY! THE RIGHT ARM!!
YIEEK
PLOMP
WHOA! NO SHIT!!
CUT IT OFF! HURRY!!
DAMN IT...
SKRAKK

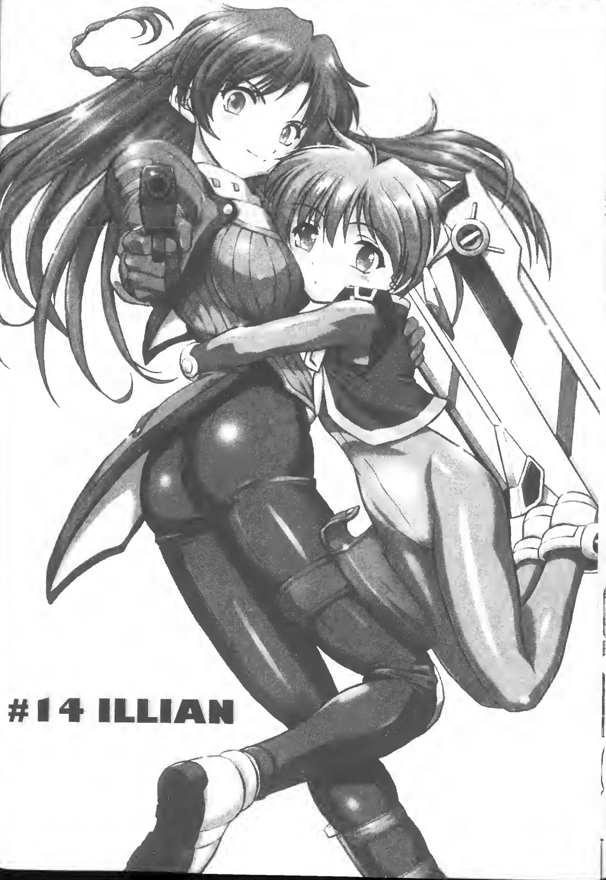

EEEK...
ZLIIIP
L-LOUIS! DON'T LET GO... HEY!
R-RIGHT...
EIEEEEK!! WHAT'RE YOU DOING!!
SORRY... IT'S TOTALLY UNINTENTIONAL...
LET GOOOOO!
YOU DON'T MEAN THAT...
GKMM
SHOOM
CREEEK
UGKH...


SO MUCH, FOR ALL THE TROUBLE TO FIX THIS...
BWOOSH
YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY!!
UG...
NGHHA!!
DGOOM
OH!
OOPS...
B-BELTIN...
GGNARRR!!

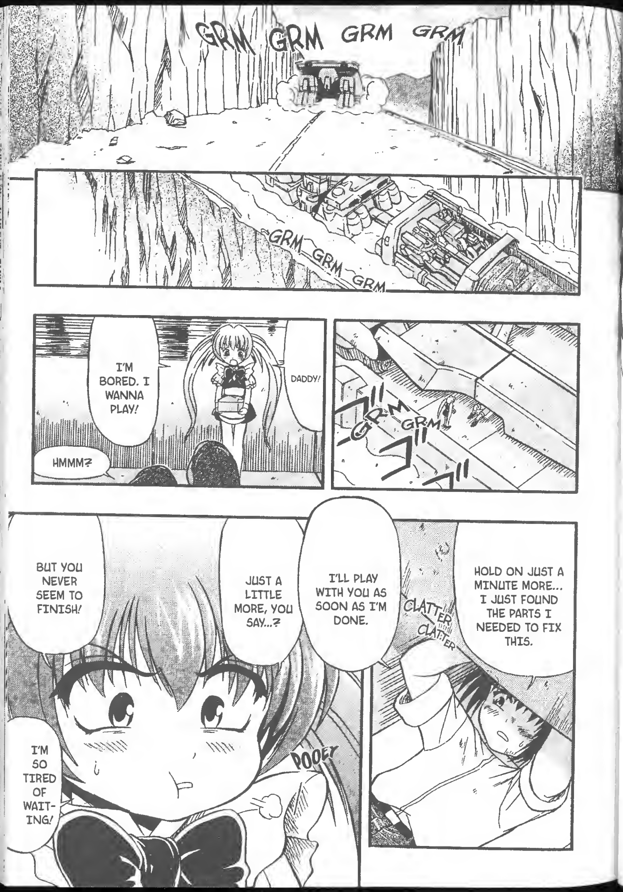

BASTARDS! YOU LITTLE BASTARDS!!
YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR THIS!!
A ROBOT...? NO...
I'M ALREADY GOOD AS DEAD! THIRTY SOME YEARS SINCE I OBTAINED THIS MECHANICAL BODY... AND I'VE BEEN PROTECTING THIS INHERITED CASTLE EVER SINCE!!
CREAK
FOR AN AMOUNT OF TIME INFINITE I WILL PROTECT THE CASTLE! I WON'T LET ANYONE GET IN THE WAY!!
HE SACRIFICED HIS BODY FOR THAT...?
HEY!!
SCORPION'S RIGHT ARM...
IT'S ALREADY EATEN AWAY!!
JSSHHHH

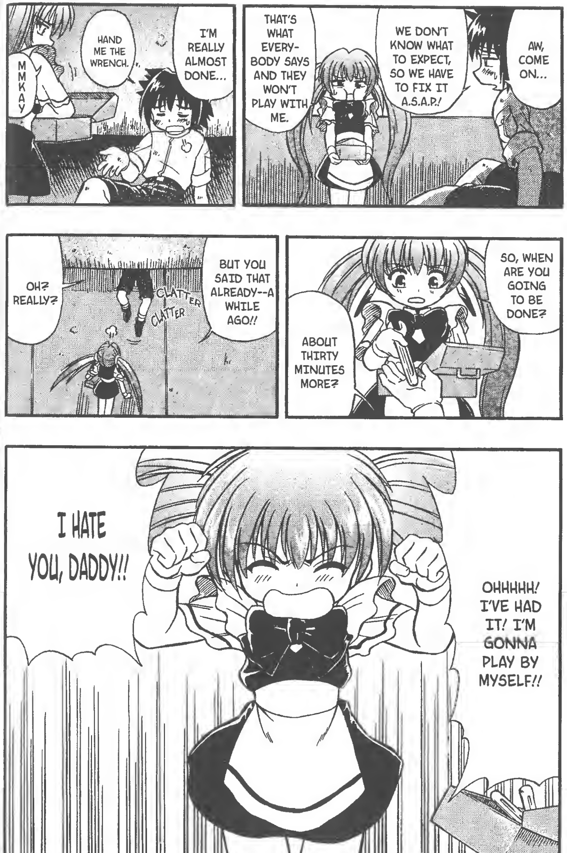

HOLY... LET'S GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE!
I KNOW THAT ALREADY!
IDIOTS! YOU THINK I WOULD LET AN IDEAL FEED GET AWAY!?
AFTER THAT TANK, THE TRAILER'S NEXT...
ZWSHHHH
HUH? WHAT'S THE MATTER...?
WHOOSSSH
W-WHA...?
NO! YOU IDIOTS! THIS BODY IS NOT FOR EATING!!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON!
BUT THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO...
GET THE HECK OUT OF HERE!!
PYOOOM
N-NO...

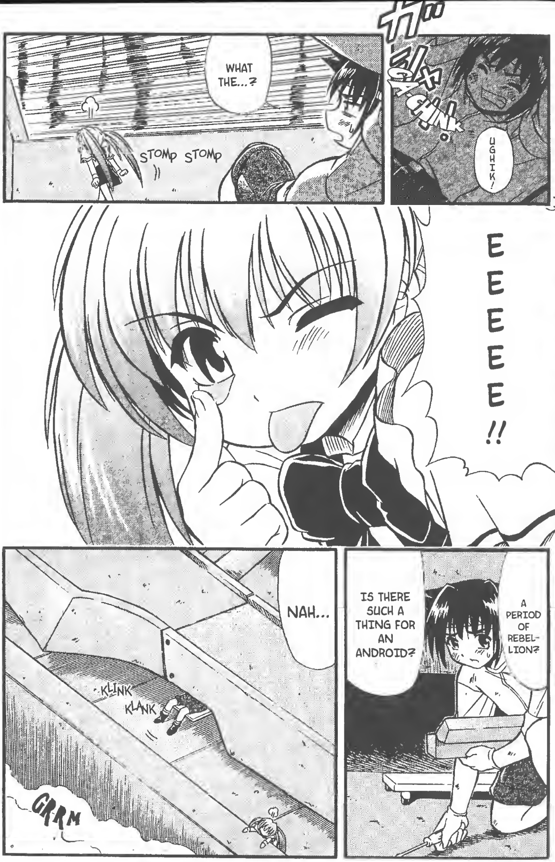

GNGYAAAAAAA!!
30 YEARS AGO... SO HE BECAME A CYBORG DURING THE WAR AND STAYED LIKE THAT EVER SINCE...
WHAT PERSISTENCE...
I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND IT.
WELL, WE STILL GOT WATER AND FUEL OUT OF IT.
BUT IT COST US MORE THAN WE BARGAINED FOR...
GRMM...
UGH...
THOSE BASTARDS...
zsH
MY BODY... MY... CASTLE...
CREAK
SWOOSH
ROMP

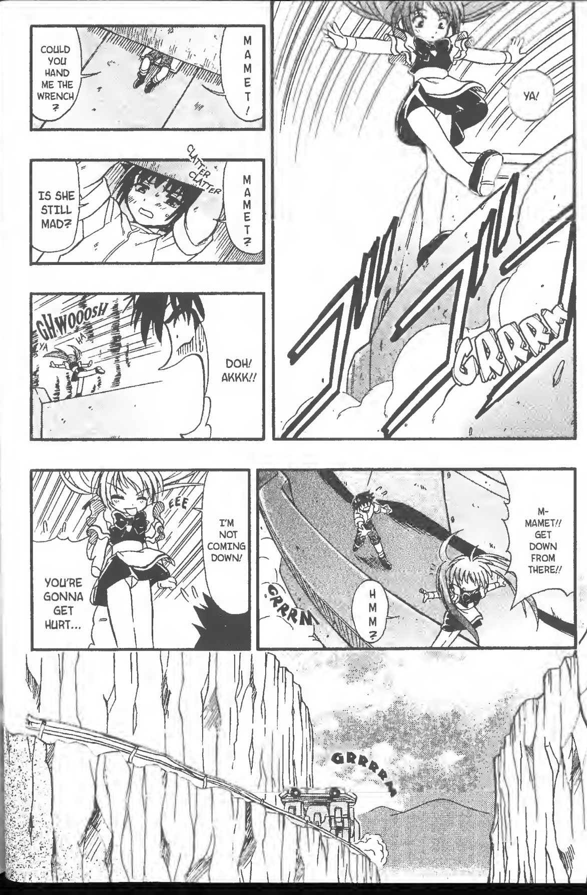


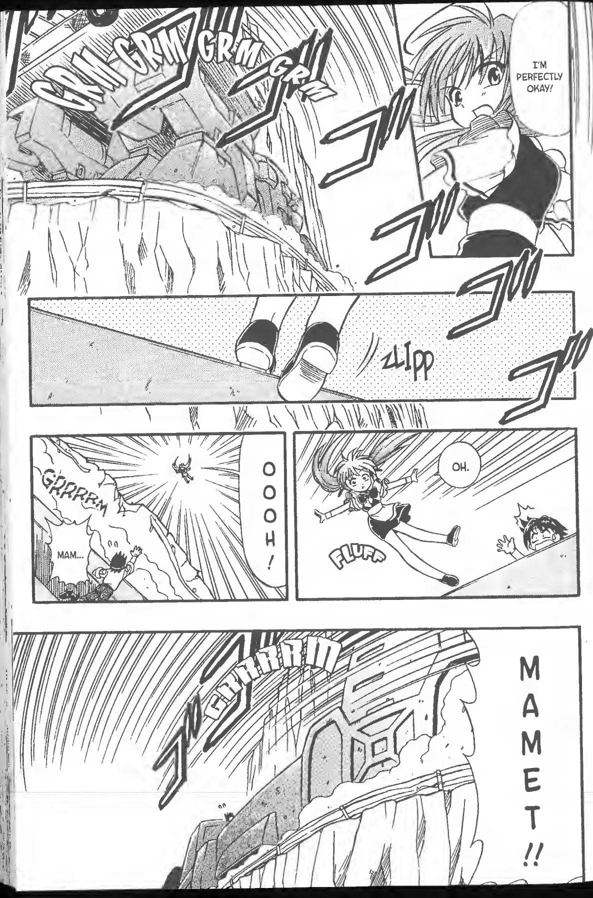
#14 ILLIAN

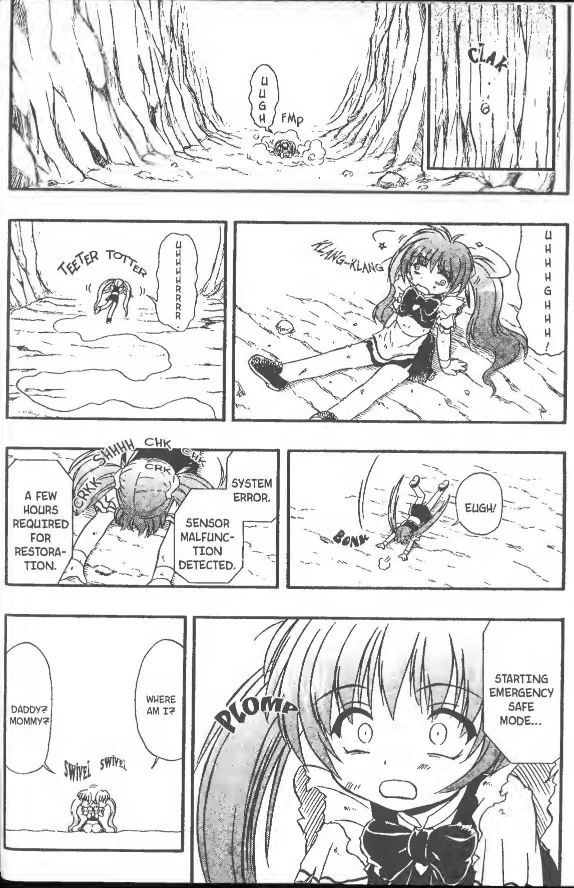

GRM GRM GRM GRM
GRM GRM GRM
GRM GRM
DADDY!
I'M BORED. I WANNA PLAY!
HMMM?
HOLD ON JUST A MINUTE MORE... I JUST FOUND THE PARTS I NEEDED TO FIX THIS.
CLATTER CLATTER
I'LL PLAY WITH YOU AS SOON AS I'M DONE.
JUST A LITTLE MORE, YOU SAY...?
BUT YOU NEVER SEEM TO FINISH!
POOEY
I'M SO TIRED OF WAIT-ING!

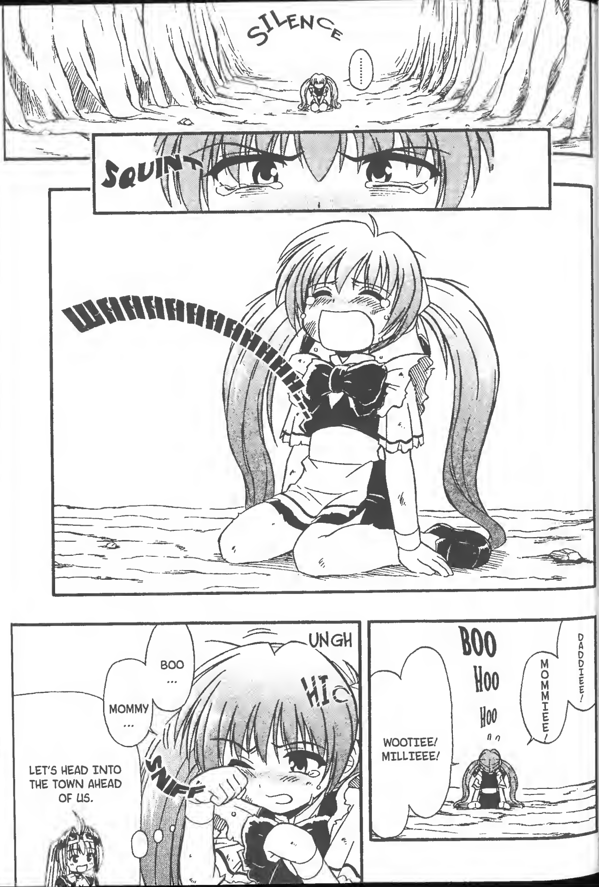

AW, COME ON...
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT, SO WE HAVE TO FIX IT A.S.A.P.!
THAT'S WHAT EVERYBODY SAYS AND THEY WON'T PLAY WITH ME.
I'M REALLY ALMOST DONE...
HAND ME THE WRENCH.
MMKAY
SO, WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO BE DONE?
ABOUT THIRTY MINUTES MORE?
BUT YOU SAID THAT ALREADY--A WHILE AGO!!
CLATTER CLATTER
OH? REALLY?
OHHHHH! I'VE HAD IT! I'M GONNA PLAY BY MYSELF!!
I HATE YOU, DADDY!!

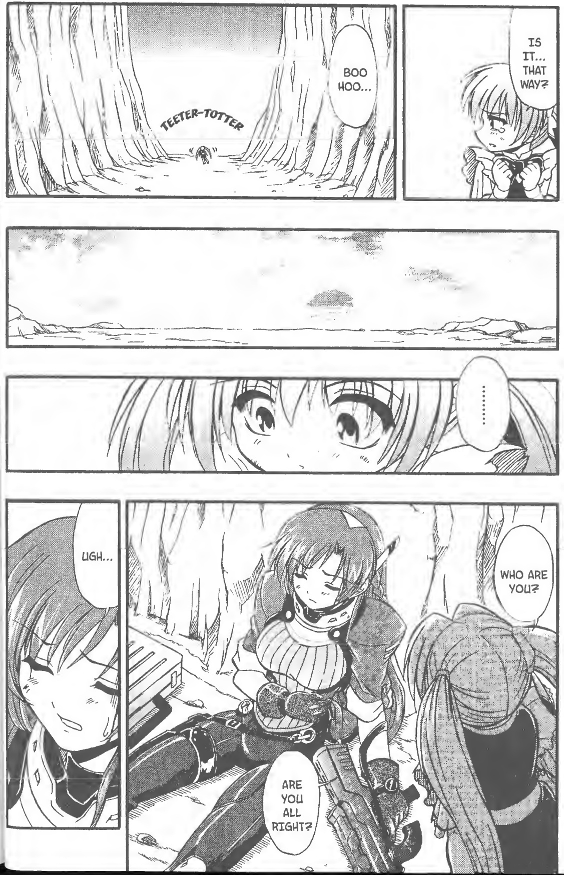

ガシャ
GACHINK!
UGHIK!
WHAT THE...?
STOMP STOMP
EEEEEEE!!
A PERIOD OF REBELLION?
IS THERE SUCH A THING FOR AN ANDROID?
NAH...
KLINK KLANK
GRRM

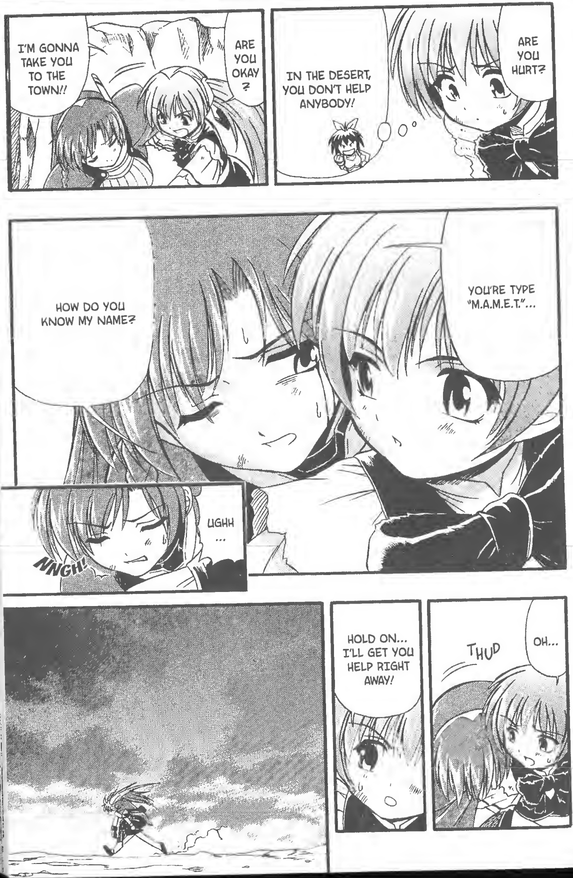

YA!
GRRRM
MAMET!
COULD YOU HAND ME THE WRENCH?
CLATTER CLATTER
MAMET?
IS SHE STILL MAD?
GHWOOOSH
YA
DOH! AKKK!!
M-MAMET!! GET DOWN FROM THERE!!
HMM?
GRRRM
EEE
I'M NOT COMING DOWN!
YOU'RE GONNA GET HURT...
GRRRRM

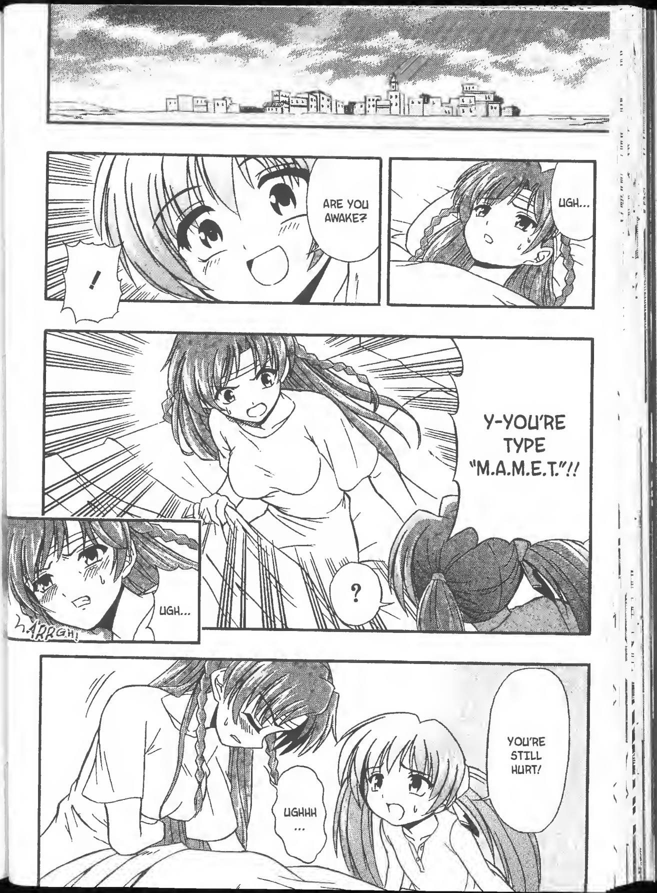

GRM GRM GRM GRM GRM
I'M PERFECTLY OKAY!
ZLIPP
OH.
FLUFF
OOOOH!
GRRRRM
MAM...
GRRRRRM
MAMET!!

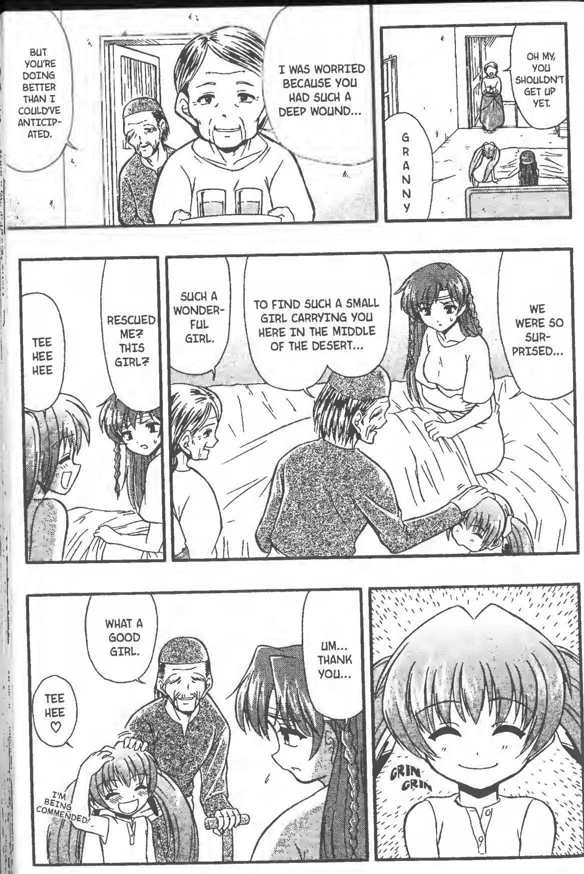

CLAK
UGH
FMP
UHHHGHHH!
KLANG-KLANG
UHHHHRRRR
TEETER TOTTER
EUGH!
BONK
SYSTEM ERROR.
SENSOR MALFUNCTION DETECTED.
A FEW HOURS REQUIRED FOR RESTORATION.
SHHHH CHK CHK CRK CRKK
STARTING EMERGENCY SAFE MODE...
PLOMP
WHERE AM I?
DADDY? MOMMY?
SWIVEL SWIVEL

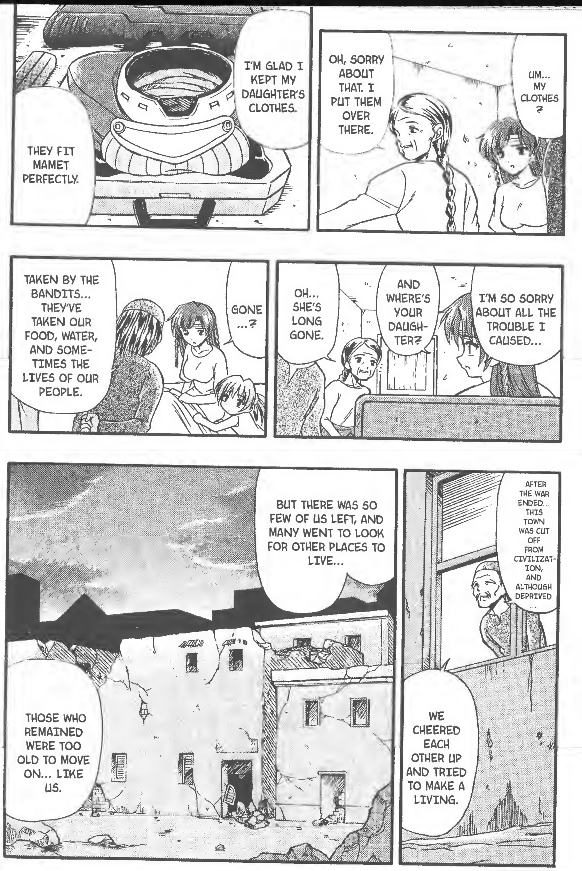

SILENCE
......
SQUINT
WAAAAAAAAAHHH
DADDIEE!
MOMMIEEE!
BOO HOO HOO
WOOTIEE! MILLIEEE!
UNGH
BOO...
MOMMY...
HIC
SNIFF
LET'S HEAD INTO THE TOWN AHEAD OF US.

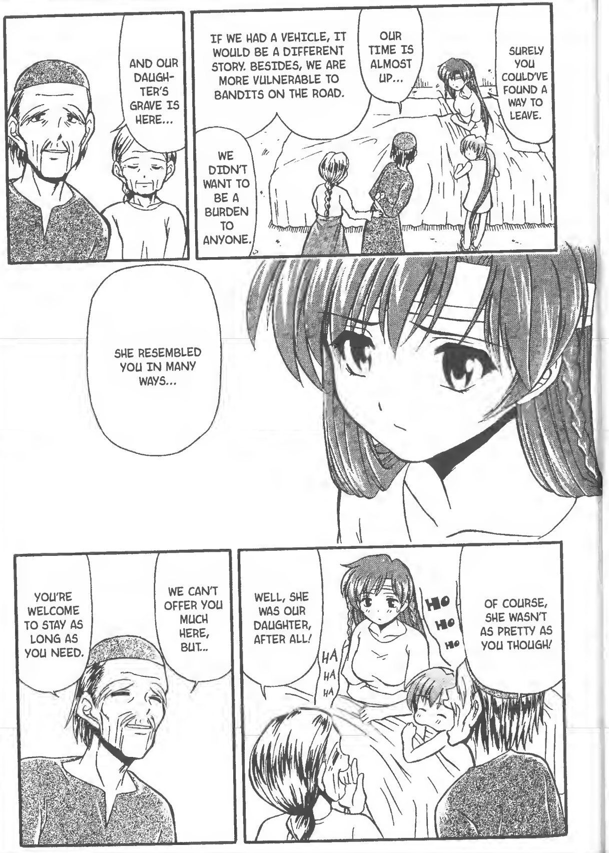

IS IT... THAT WAY?
BOO HOO...
TEETER-TOTTER
......
WHO ARE YOU?
UGH...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

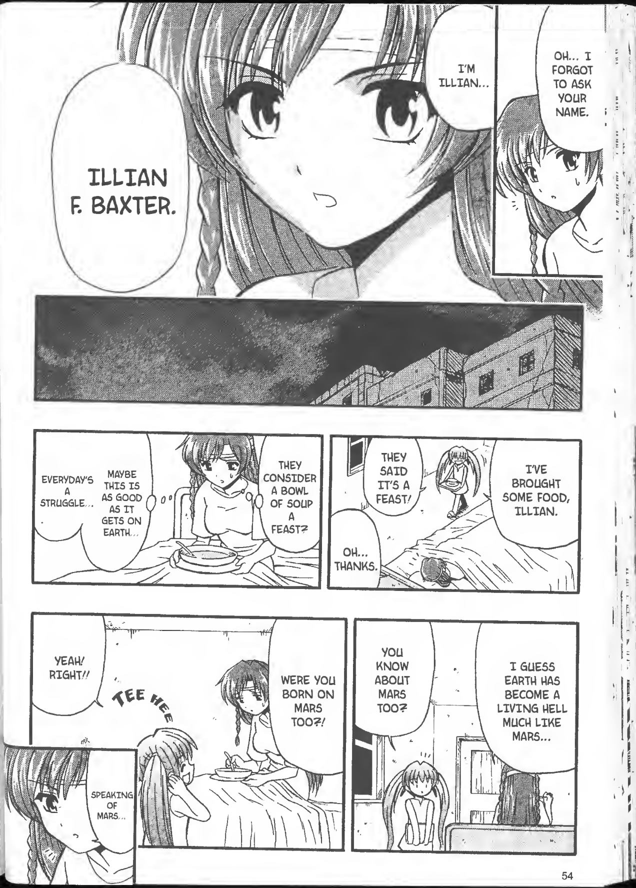

ARE YOU HURT?
IN THE DESERT, YOU DON'T HELP ANYBODY!
ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M GONNA TAKE YOU TO THE TOWN!!
YOU'RE TYPE "M.A.M.E.T."...
HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?
UGHH...
NNGH!
OH...
THUD
HOLD ON... I'LL GET YOU HELP RIGHT AWAY!

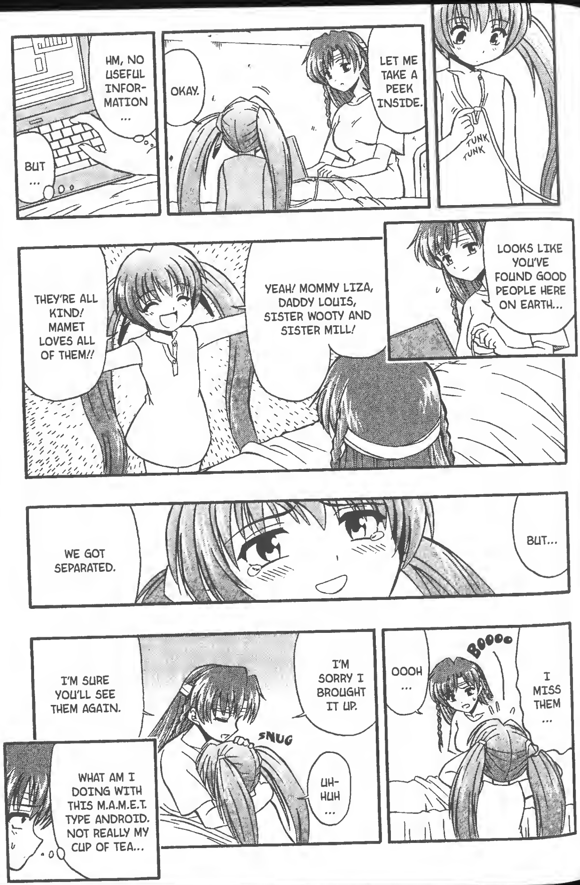

UGH...
ARE YOU AWAKE?
!
Y-YOU'RE TYPE "M.A.M.E.T."!!
?
UGH...
ARRRGH!
YOU'RE STILL HURT!
UGHHH ...

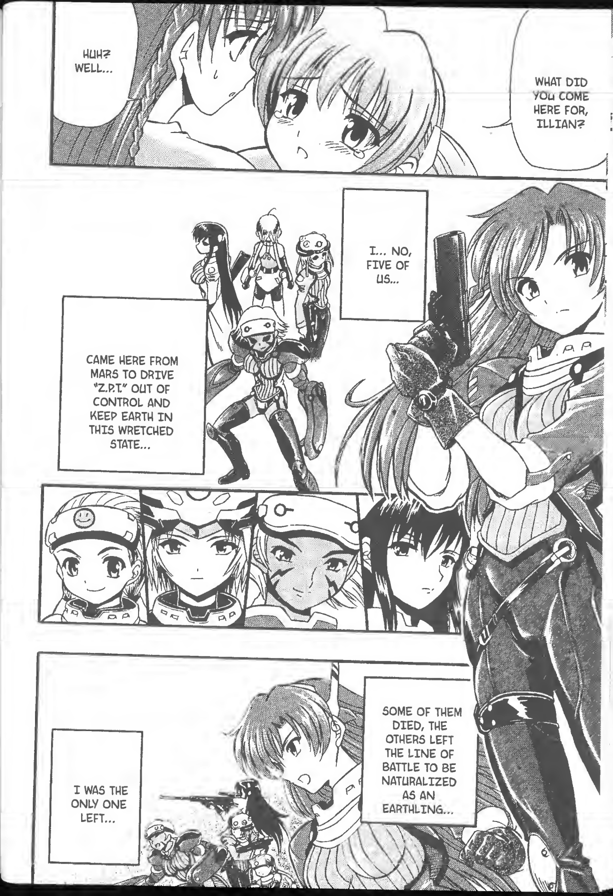

OH MY, YOU SHOULDN'T GET UP YET.
GRANNY
I WAS WORRIED BECAUSE YOU HAD SUCH A DEEP WOUND...
BUT YOU'RE DOING BETTER THAN I COULD'VE ANTICIPATED.
WE WERE SO SURPRISED...
TO FIND SUCH A SMALL GIRL CARRYING YOU HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT...
SUCH A WONDERFUL GIRL.
RESCUED ME? THIS GIRL?
TEE HEE HEE
GRIN GRIN
UM... THANK YOU...
WHAT A GOOD GIRL.
TEE HEE ♡
I'M BEING COMMENDED!

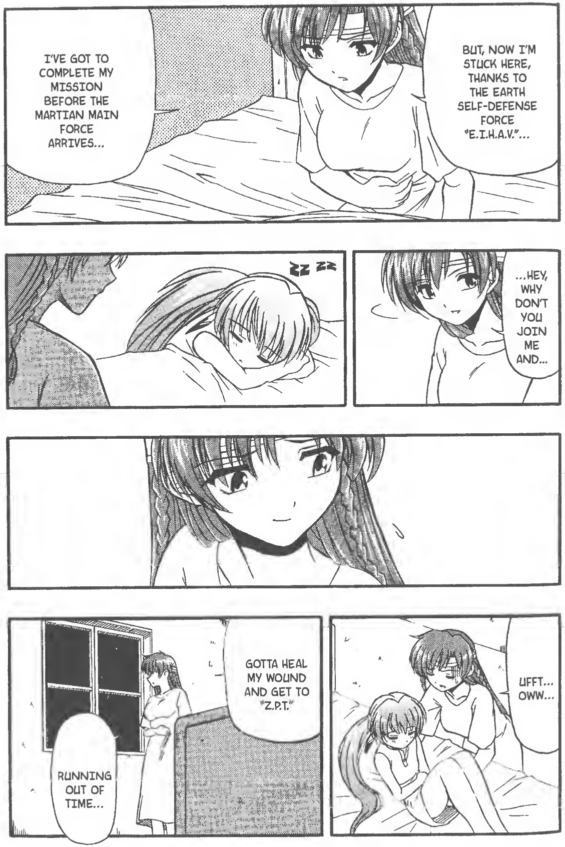

UM... MY CLOTHES?
OH, SORRY ABOUT THAT. I PUT THEM OVER THERE.
I'M GLAD I KEPT MY DAUGHTER'S CLOTHES.
THEY FIT MAMET PERFECTLY.
I'M SO SORRY ABOUT ALL THE TROUBLE I CAUSED...
AND WHERE'S YOUR DAUGHTER?
OH... SHE'S LONG GONE.
GONE...?
TAKEN BY THE BANDITS... THEY'VE TAKEN OUR FOOD, WATER, AND SOMETIMES THE LIVES OF OUR PEOPLE.
AFTER THE WAR ENDED... THIS TOWN WAS CUT OFF FROM CIVILIZATION, AND ALTHOUGH DEPRIVED...
WE CHEERED EACH OTHER UP AND TRIED TO MAKE A LIVING.
BUT THERE WAS SO FEW OF US LEFT, AND MANY WENT TO LOOK FOR OTHER PLACES TO LIVE...
THOSE WHO REMAINED WERE TOO OLD TO MOVE ON... LIKE US.

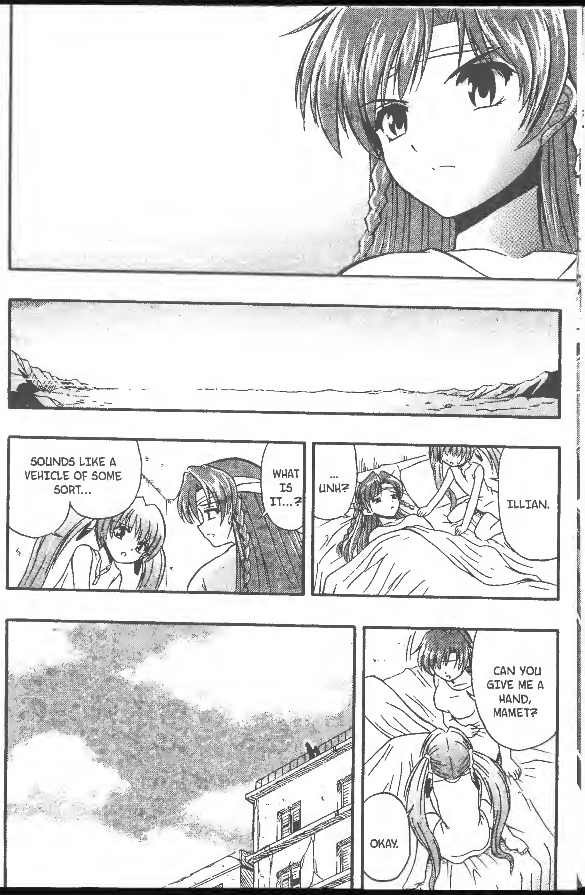

SURELY YOU COULD'VE FOUND A WAY TO LEAVE.
OUR TIME IS ALMOST UP...
IF WE HAD A VEHICLE, IT WOULD BE A DIFFERENT STORY. BESIDES, WE ARE MORE VULNERABLE TO BANDITS ON THE ROAD.
WE DIDN'T WANT TO BE A BURDEN TO ANYONE.
AND OUR DAUGHTER'S GRAVE IS HERE...
SHE RESEMBLED YOU IN MANY WAYS...
OF COURSE, SHE WASN'T AS PRETTY AS YOU THOUGH!
HO HO HO
WELL, SHE WAS OUR DAUGHTER, AFTER ALL!
HA HA HA
WE CAN'T OFFER YOU MUCH HERE, BUT...
YOU'RE WELCOME TO STAY AS LONG AS YOU NEED.

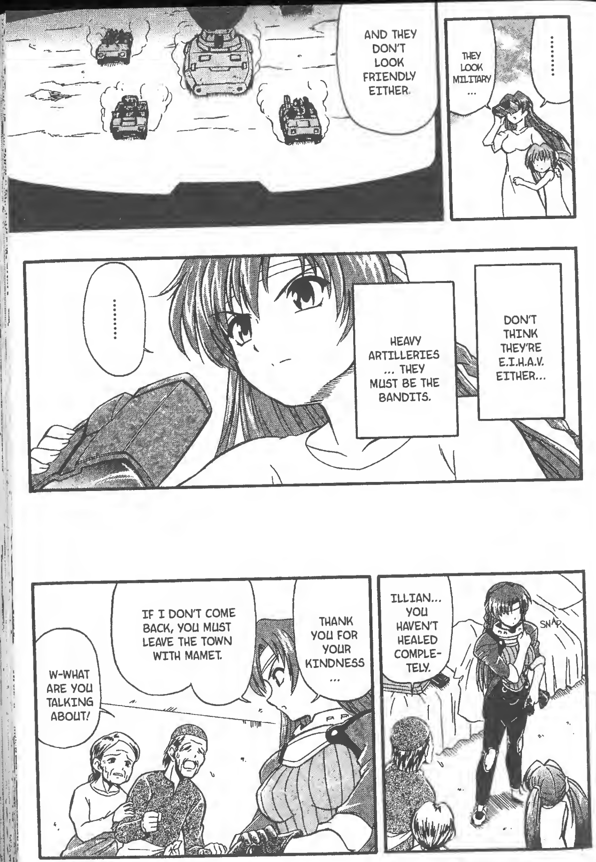

OH... I FORGOT TO ASK YOUR NAME.
I'M ILLIAN...
ILLIAN F. BAXTER.
I'VE BROUGHT SOME FOOD, ILLIAN.
THEY SAID IT'S A FEAST!
OH... THANKS.
THEY CONSIDER A BOWL OF SOUP A FEAST?
MAYBE THIS IS AS GOOD AS IT GETS ON EARTH...
EVERYDAY'S A STRUGGLE...
I GUESS EARTH HAS BECOME A LIVING HELL MUCH LIKE MARS...
YOU KNOW ABOUT MARS TOO?
WERE YOU BORN ON MARS TOO?!
TEE HEE
YEAH! RIGHT!!
SPEAKING OF MARS...

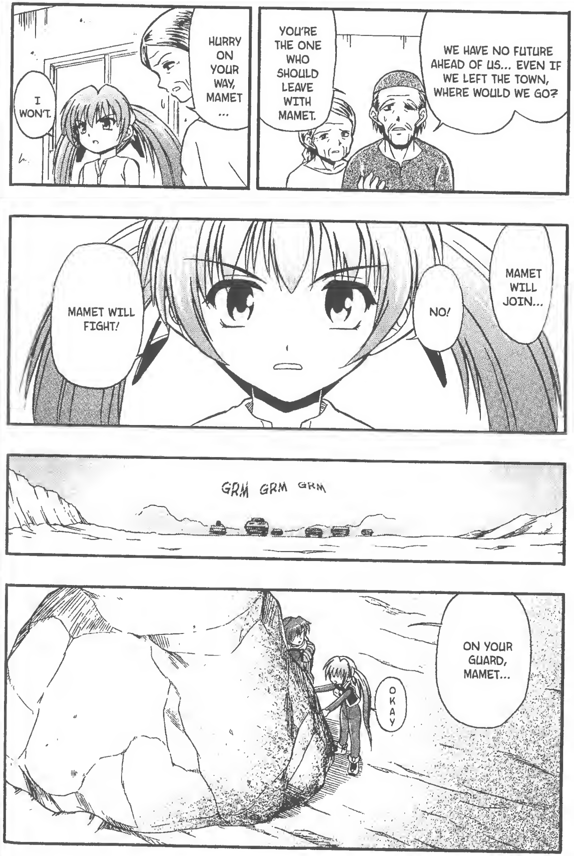

TUNK TUNK
LET ME TAKE A PEEK INSIDE.
OKAY.
HM, NO USEFUL INFORMATION...
BUT...
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE FOUND GOOD PEOPLE HERE ON EARTH...
YEAH! MOMMY LIZA, DADDY LOUIS, SISTER WOOTY AND SISTER MILL!
THEY'RE ALL KIND! MAMET LOVES ALL OF THEM!!
BUT...
WE GOT SEPARATED.
I MISS THEM...
BOOOO
OOOH...
UH-HUH...
I'M SORRY I BROUGHT IT UP.
SNUG
I'M SURE YOU'LL SEE THEM AGAIN.
WHAT AM I DOING WITH THIS M.A.M.E.T. TYPE ANDROID. NOT REALLY MY CUP OF TEA...

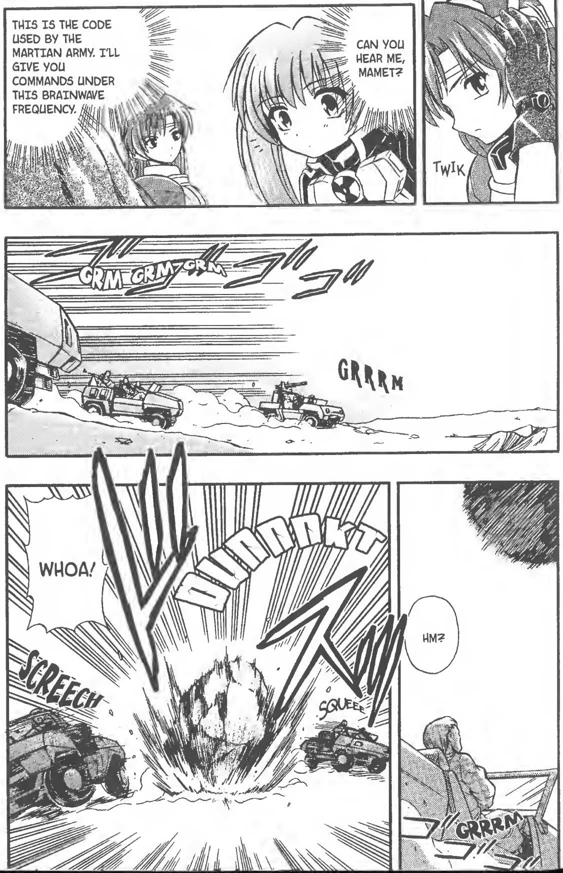

WHAT DID YOU COME HERE FOR, ILLIAN?
HUH? WELL...
I... NO, FIVE OF US...
CAME HERE FROM MARS TO DRIVE "Z.P.T." OUT OF CONTROL AND KEEP EARTH IN THIS WRETCHED STATE...
SOME OF THEM DIED, THE OTHERS LEFT THE LINE OF BATTLE TO BE NATURALIZED AS AN EARTHLING...
I WAS THE ONLY ONE LEFT...

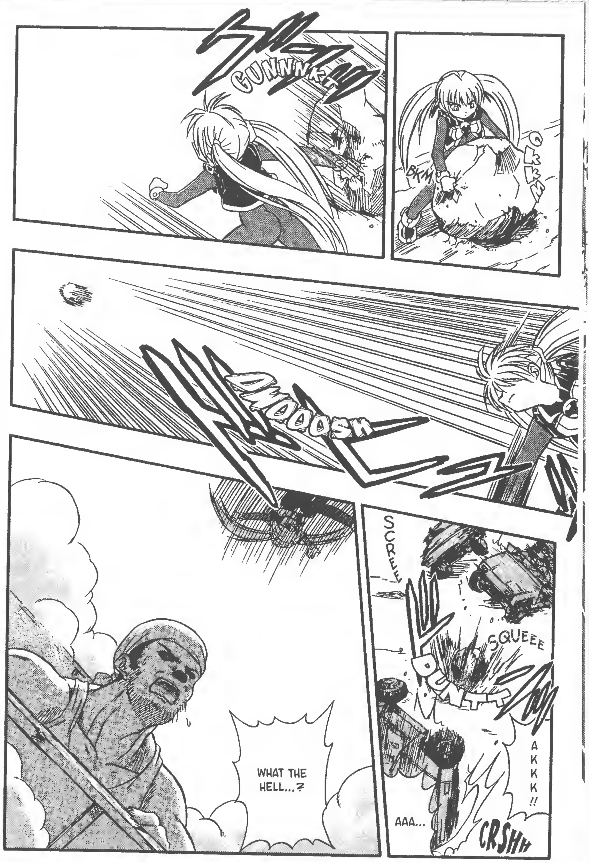

BUT, NOW I'M STUCK HERE, THANKS TO THE EARTH SELF-DEFENSE FORCE "E.I.H.A.V."...
I'VE GOT TO COMPLETE MY MISSION BEFORE THE MARTIAN MAIN FORCE ARRIVES...
...HEY, WHY DON'T YOU JOIN ME AND...
ZZ ZZ
UFFT... OWW...
GOTTA HEAL MY WOUND AND GET TO "Z.P.T."
RUNNING OUT OF TIME...

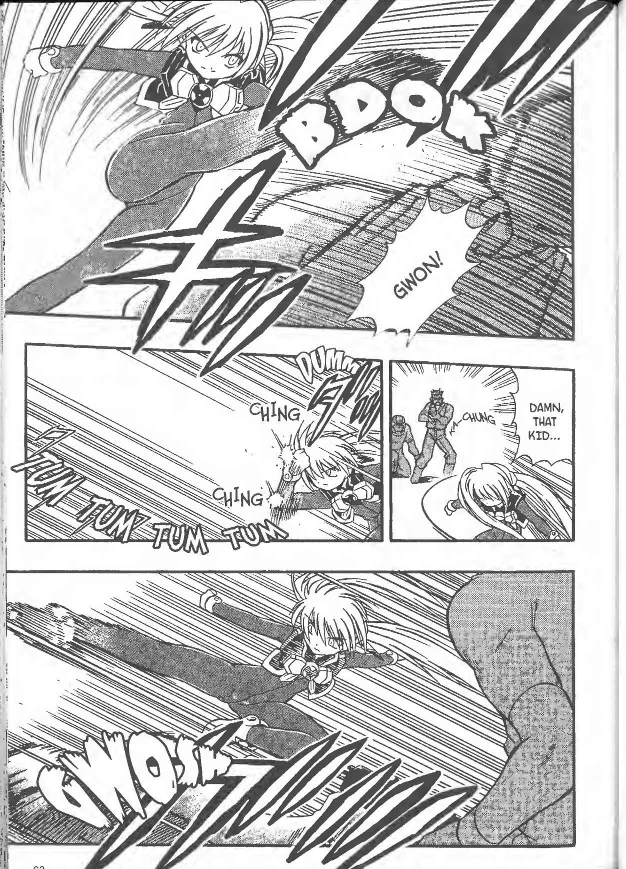

ILLIAN.
... UNH?
WHAT IS IT...?
SOUNDS LIKE A VEHICLE OF SOME SORT...
CAN YOU GIVE ME A HAND, MAMET?
OKAY.

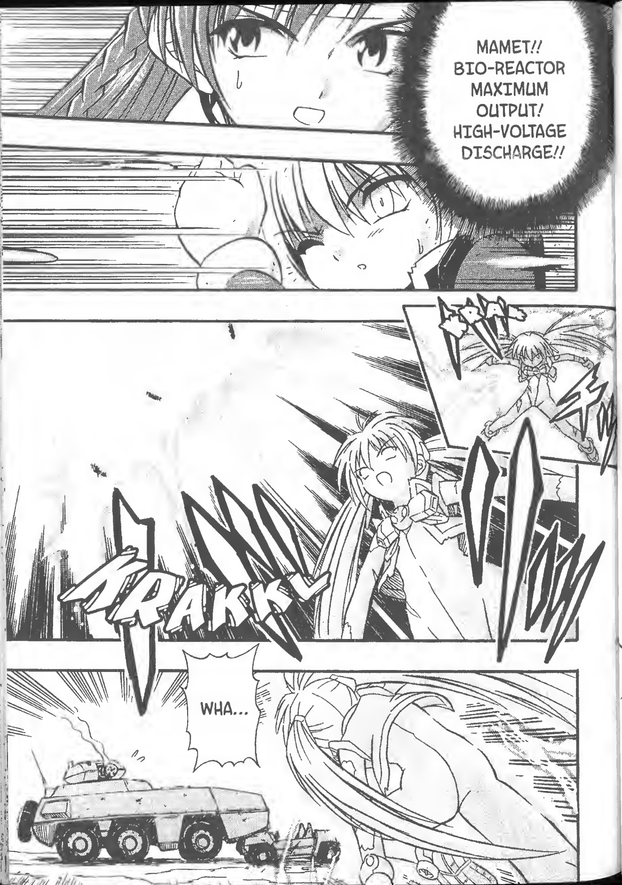

....
THEY LOOK MILITARY ...
AND THEY DON'T LOOK FRIENDLY EITHER.
DON'T THINK THEY'RE E.I.H.A.V. EITHER...
HEAVY ARTILLERIES ... THEY MUST BE THE BANDITS.
....
ILLIAN... YOU HAVEN'T HEALED COMPLE-TELY.
SNAP
THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS ...
IF I DON'T COME BACK, YOU MUST LEAVE THE TOWN WITH MAMET.
W-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!

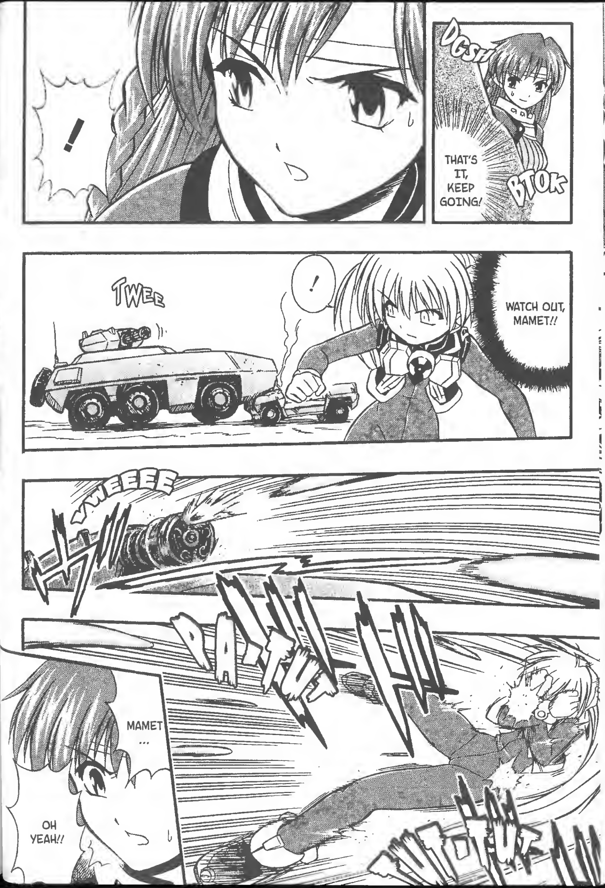

WE HAVE NO FUTURE AHEAD OF US... EVEN IF WE LEFT THE TOWN, WHERE WOULD WE GO?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SHOULD LEAVE WITH MAMET.
HURRY ON YOUR WAY, MAMET ...
I WON'T.
MAMET WILL JOIN...
NO!
MAMET WILL FIGHT!
GRM GRM GRM
ON YOUR GUARD, MAMET...
OKAY

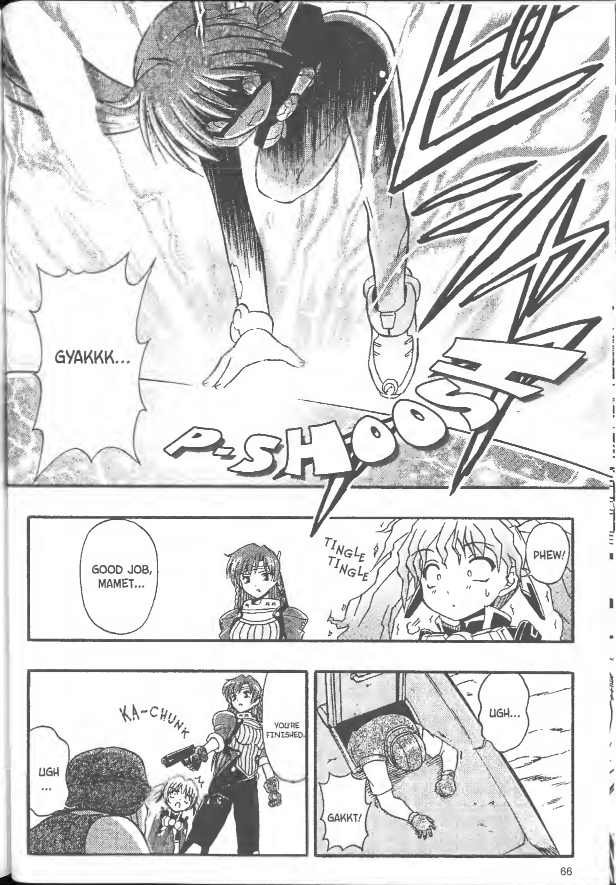

TWIK
CAN YOU HEAR ME, MAMET?
THIS IS THE CODE USED BY THE MARTIAN ARMY. I'LL GIVE YOU COMMANDS UNDER THIS BRAINWAVE FREQUENCY.
GRM GRM GRM
GRRRM
HM?
DUNNNKT
WHOA!
SQUEEE
SCREECH
GRRRM

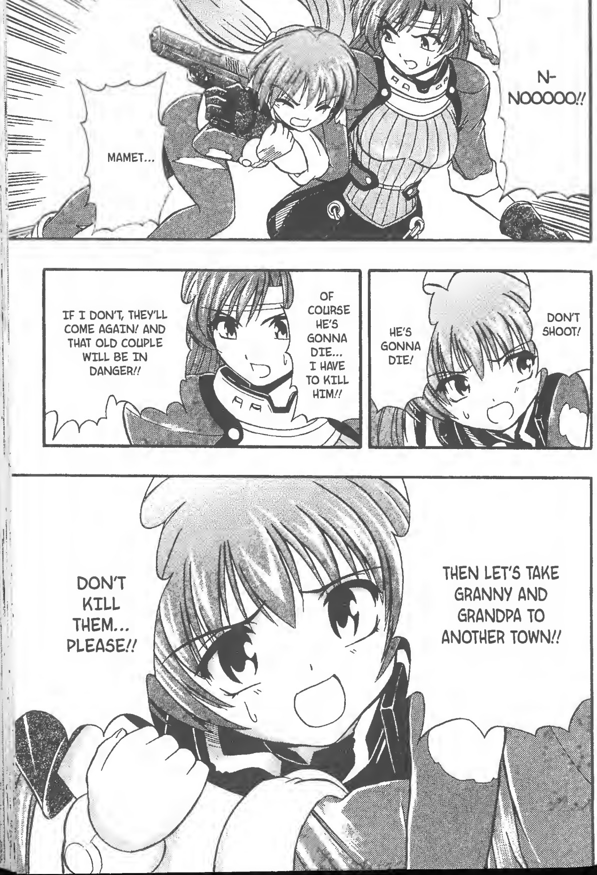

OKKM
BKM
GUNNNKK
DWOOOSH
SCREEE
SQUEEE
DUATT
AKKKK!!
AAA...
CRSHH
WHAT THE HELL...?

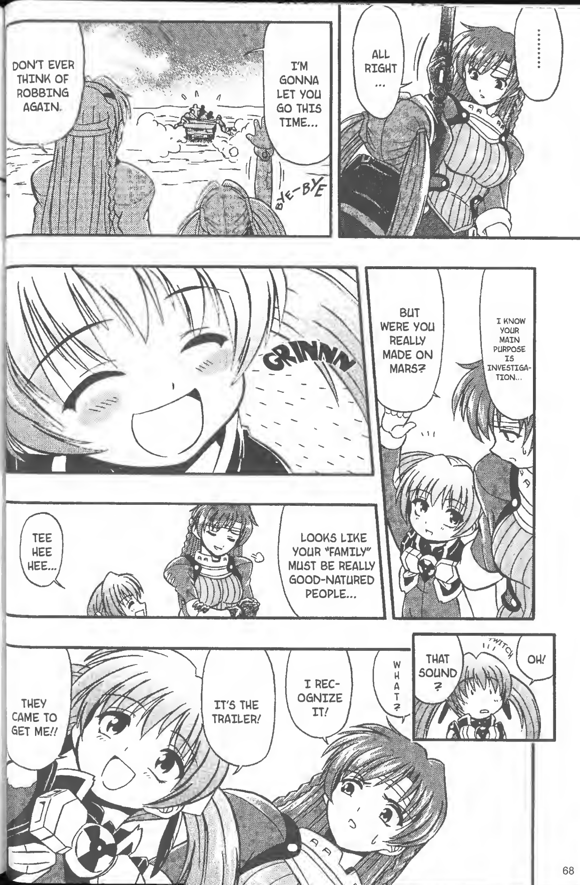

BDOK
GWON!
DUMM
CHING
CHING
TUM TUM TUM TUM
DAMN, THAT KID...
CHUNG
GWOSH

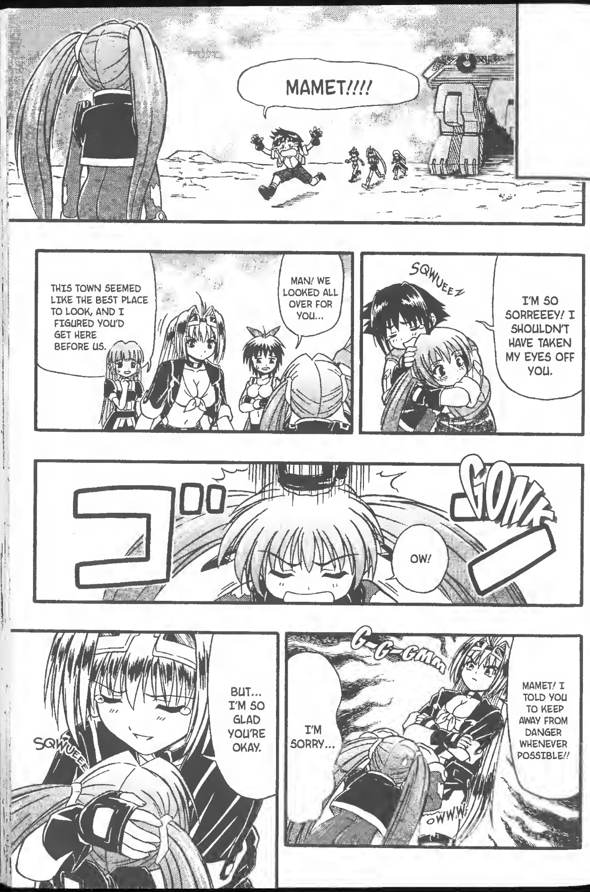

MAMET!! BIO-REACTOR MAXIMUM OUTPUT! HIGH-VOLTAGE DISCHARGE!!
KRAK
KRAKKL
WHA...

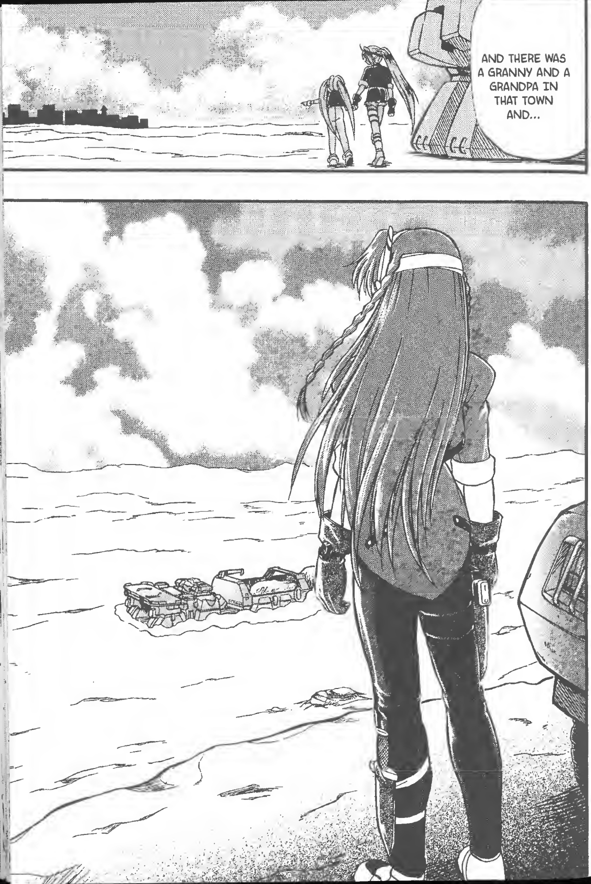

DGSH
THAT'S IT, KEEP GOING!
BTOK
!
WATCH OUT, MAMET!!
!
TWEE
WHEEEE
PA-TUH-TUH
MAMET ...
OH YEAH!!

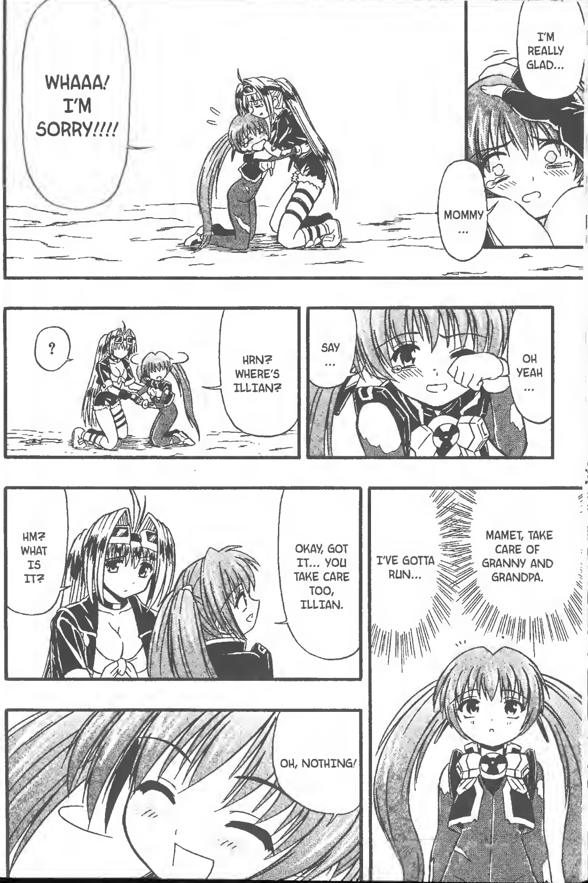

GYAKKK...
P-SHOOSH
PHEW!
TINGLE TINGLE
GOOD JOB, MAMET...
UGH...
GAKKT!
YOU'RE FINISHED.
KA-CHUNK
UGH ...

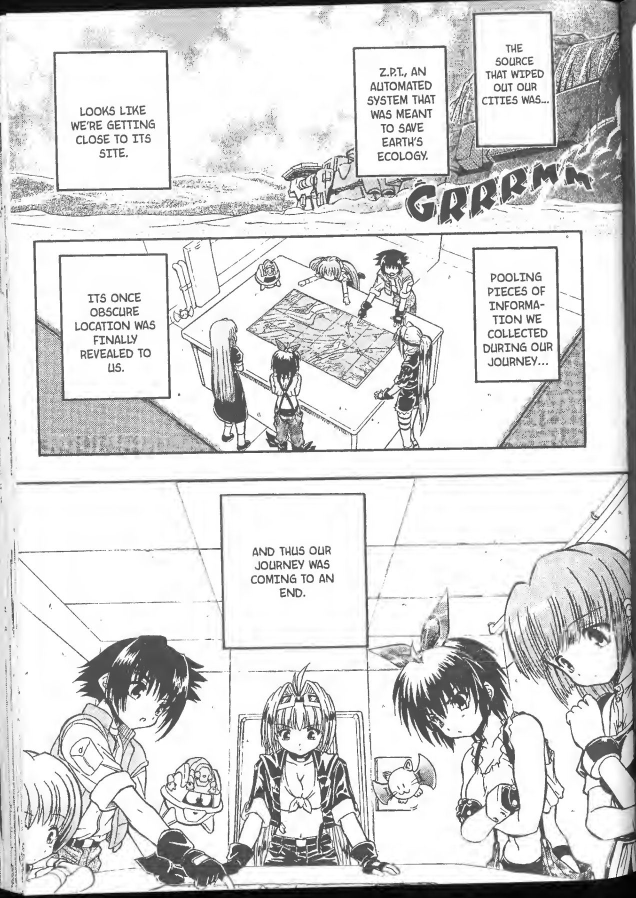

N-NOOOOO!!
MAMET...
DON'T SHOOT!
HE'S GONNA DIE!
OF COURSE HE'S GONNA DIE... I HAVE TO KILL HIM!!
IF I DON'T, THEY'LL COME AGAIN! AND THAT OLD COUPLE WILL BE IN DANGER!!
THEN LET'S TAKE GRANNY AND GRANDPA TO ANOTHER TOWN!!
DON'T KILL THEM... PLEASE!!


......
ALL RIGHT...
I'M GONNA LET YOU GO THIS TIME...
DON'T EVER THINK OF ROBBING AGAIN.
BYE-BYE
I KNOW YOUR MAIN PURPOSE IS INVESTIGATION...
BUT WERE YOU REALLY MADE ON MARS?
GRINNN
LOOKS LIKE YOUR "FAMILY" MUST BE REALLY GOOD-NATURED PEOPLE...
TEE HEE HEE...
OH!
TWITCH
THAT SOUND?
WHAT?
I RECOGNIZE IT!
IT'S THE TRAILER!
THEY CAME TO GET ME!!


MAMET!!!!
SQWUEEE
I'M SO SORREEEY! I SHOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN MY EYES OFF YOU.
MAN! WE LOOKED ALL OVER FOR YOU...
THIS TOWN SEEMED LIKE THE BEST PLACE TO LOOK, AND I FIGURED YOU'D GET HERE BEFORE US.
GONK
ゴー
OW!
MAMET! I TOLD YOU TO KEEP AWAY FROM DANGER WHENEVER POSSIBLE!!
G-G-GMM
I'M SORRY...
OWWW
BUT... I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE OKAY.
SQWUEEE


AND THERE WAS A GRANNY AND A GRANDPA IN THAT TOWN AND...


WHAAA! I'M SORRY!!!!
I'M REALLY GLAD...
MOMMY...
?
HRN? WHERE'S ILLIAN?
SAY...
OH YEAH...
HM? WHAT IS IT?
OKAY, GOT IT... YOU TAKE CARE TOO, ILLIAN.
I'VE GOTTA RUN...
MAMET, TAKE CARE OF GRANNY AND GRANDPA.
OH, NOTHING!

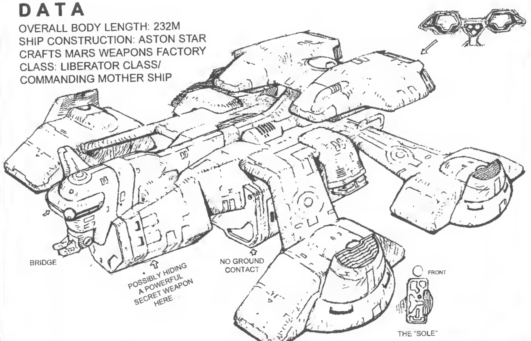

THE SOURCE THAT WIPED OUT OUR CITIES WAS...
Z.P.T., AN AUTOMATED SYSTEM THAT WAS MEANT TO SAVE EARTH'S ECOLOGY.
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GETTING CLOSE TO ITS SITE.
GRRRMM
POOLING PIECES OF INFORMATION WE COLLECTED DURING OUR JOURNEY...
ITS ONCE OBSCURE LOCATION WAS FINALLY REVEALED TO US.
AND THUS OUR JOURNEY WAS COMING TO AN END.

SETTING DATA FILE:8

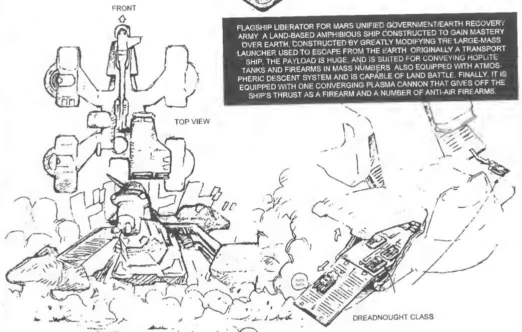
LIBERATOR

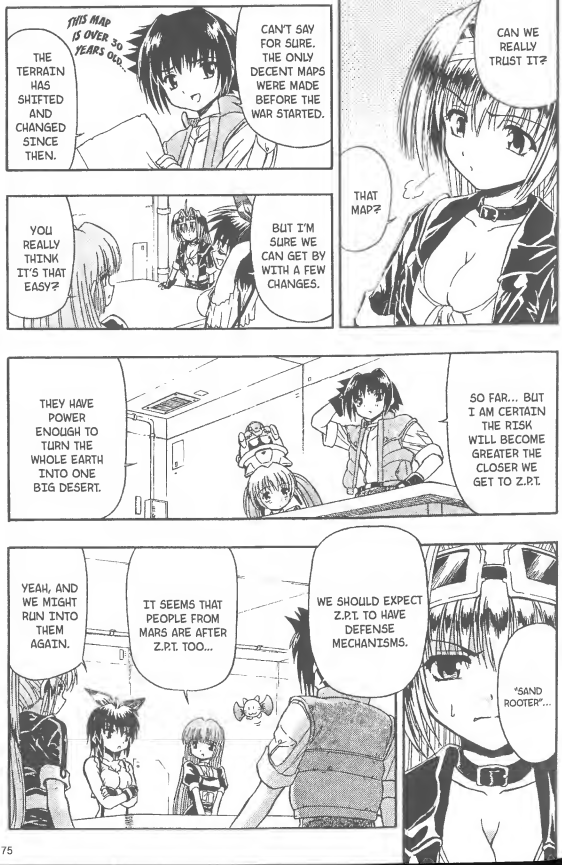
DATA

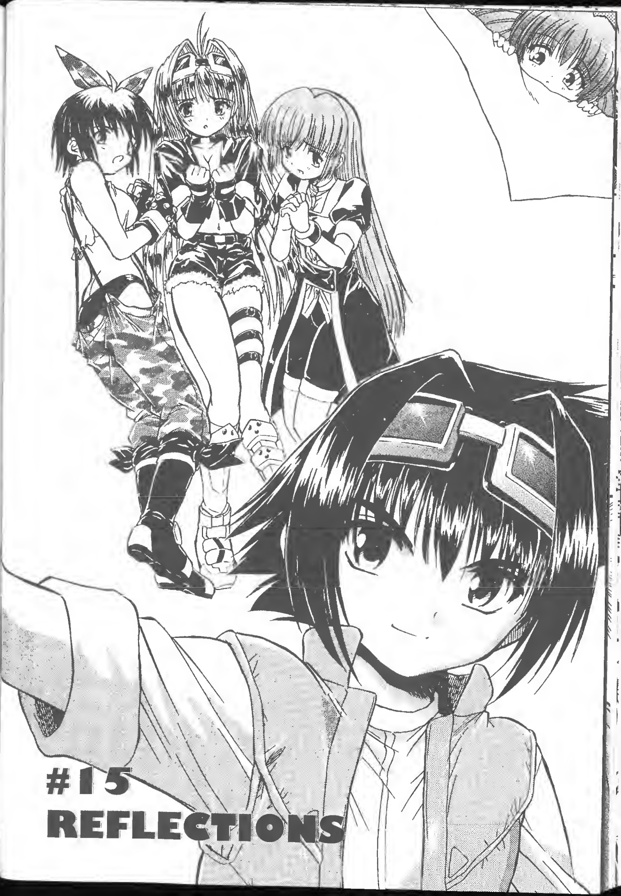
OVERALL BODY LENGTH: 232M
SHIP CONSTRUCTION: ASTON STAR CRAFTS MARS WEAPONS FACTORY
CLASS: LIBERATOR CLASS/ COMMANDING MOTHER SHIP


BRIDGE
POSSIBLY HIDING A POWERFUL SECRET WEAPON HERE.
NO GROUND CONTACT
FRONT
THE "SOLE"

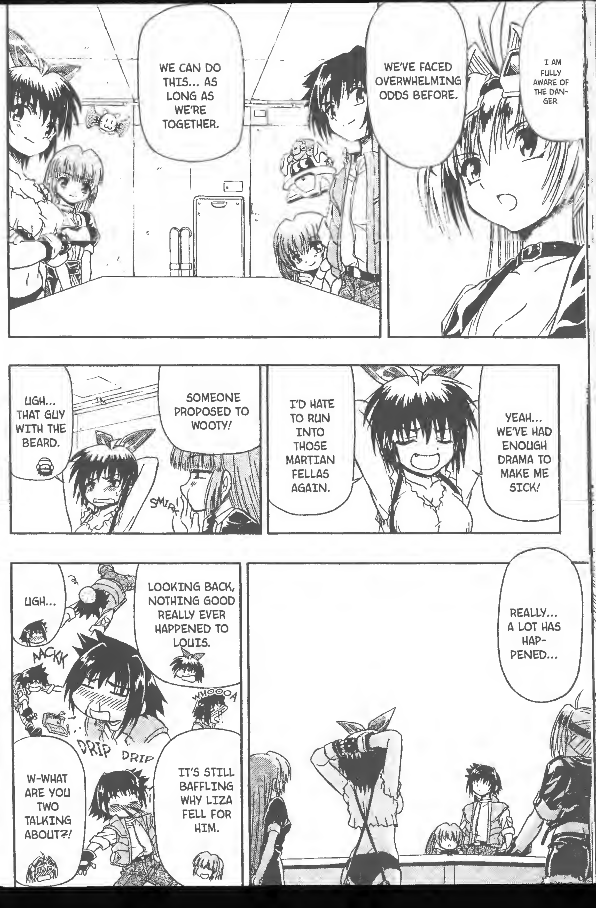
FLAGSHIP LIBERATOR FOR MARS UNIFIED GOVERNMENT/EARTH RECOVERY ARMY A LAND-BASED AMPHIBIOUS SHIP CONSTRUCTED TO GAIN MASTERY OVER EARTH, CONSTRUCTED BY GREATLY MODIFYING THE LARGE-MASS LAUNCHER USED TO ESCAPE FROM THE EARTH. ORIGINALLY A TRANSPORT SHIP, THE PAYLOAD IS HUGE, AND IS SUITED FOR CONVEYING HOPLITE TANKS AND FIREARMS IN MASS NUMBERS ALSO EQUIPPED WITH ATMOSPHERIC DESCENT SYSTEM AND IS CAPABLE OF LAND BATTLE. FINALLY, IT IS EQUIPPED WITH ONE CONVERGING PLASMA CANNON THAT GIVES OFF THE SHIP'S THRUST AS A FIREARM AND A NUMBER OF ANTI-AIR FIREARMS.

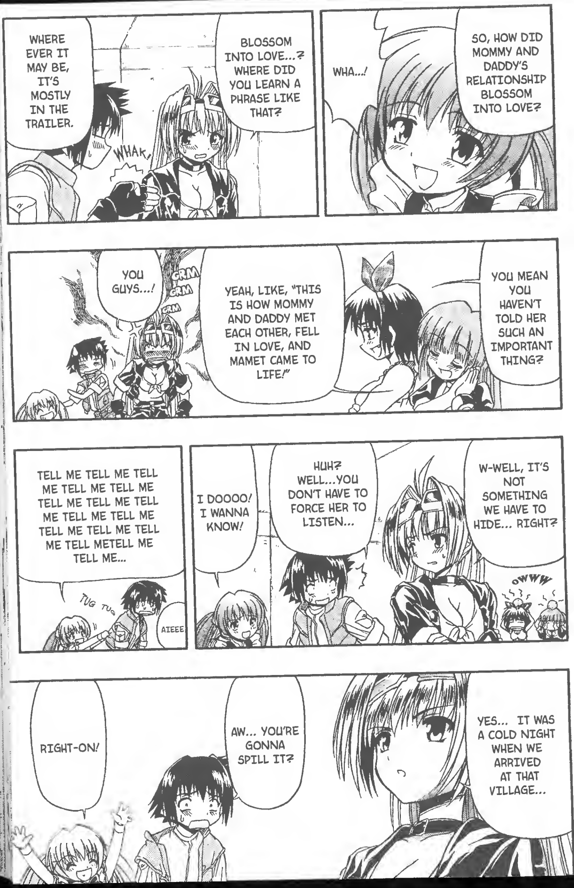

FRONT
TOP VIEW
DREADNOUGHT CLASS

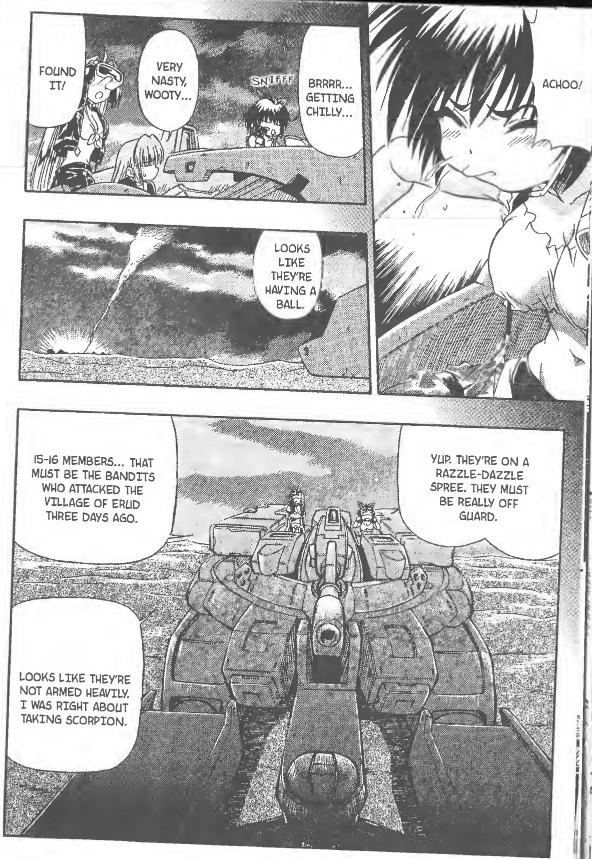

CAN WE REALLY TRUST IT?
THAT MAP?
CAN'T SAY FOR SURE. THE ONLY DECENT MAPS WERE MADE BEFORE THE WAR STARTED.
THIS MAP IS OVER 30 YEARS OLD...
THE TERRAIN HAS SHIFTED AND CHANGED SINCE THEN.
BUT I'M SURE WE CAN GET BY WITH A FEW CHANGES.
YOU REALLY THINK IT'S THAT EASY?
SO FAR... BUT I AM CERTAIN THE RISK WILL BECOME GREATER THE CLOSER WE GET TO Z.P.T.
THEY HAVE POWER ENOUGH TO TURN THE WHOLE EARTH INTO ONE BIG DESERT.
"SAND ROOTER"...
WE SHOULD EXPECT Z.P.T. TO HAVE DEFENSE MECHANISMS.
IT SEEMS THAT PEOPLE FROM MARS ARE AFTER Z.P.T. TOO...
YEAH, AND WE MIGHT RUN INTO THEM AGAIN.

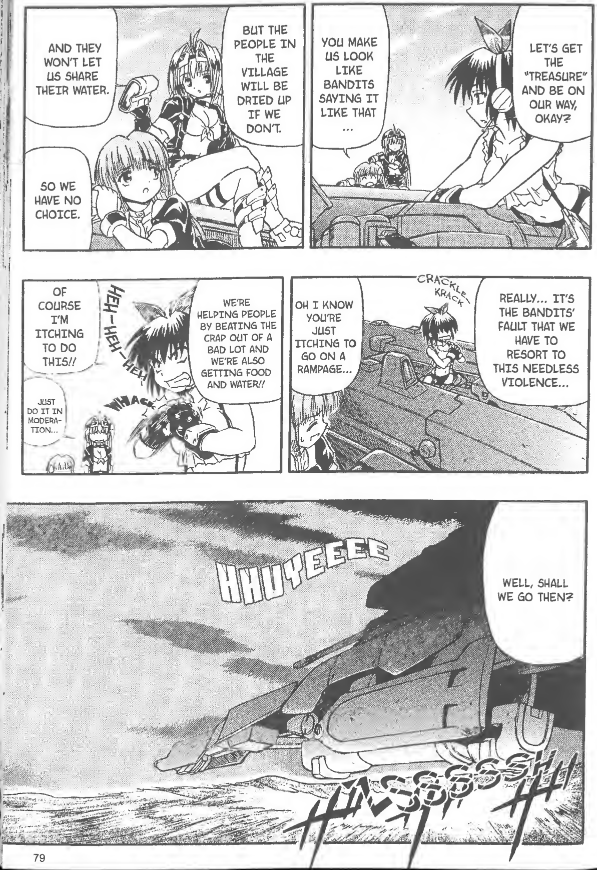


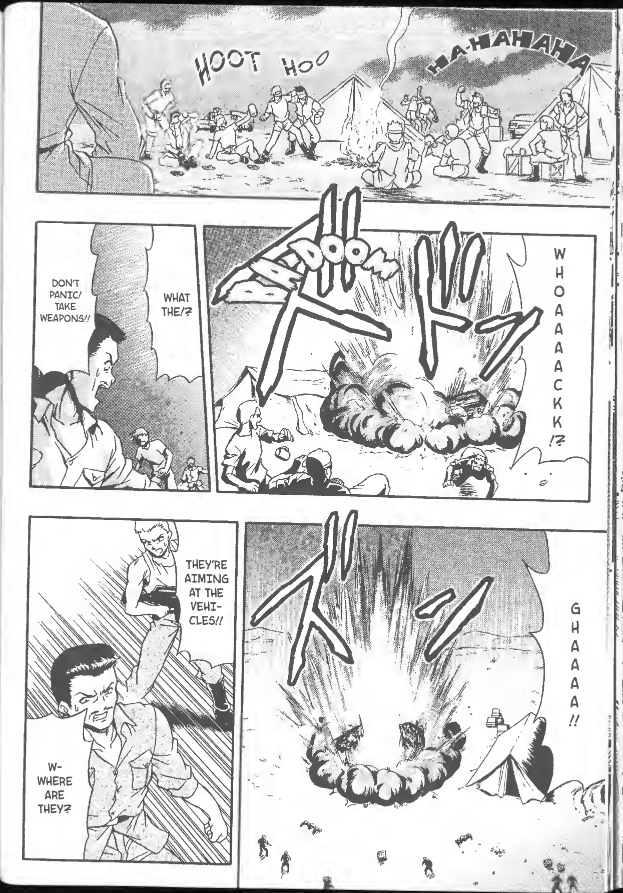
#15
REFLECTIONS

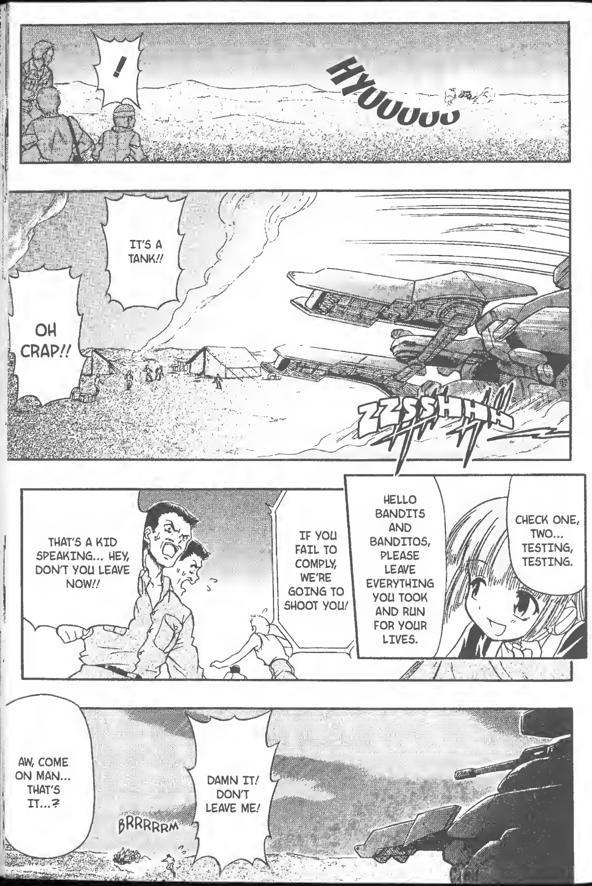

I AM FULLY AWARE OF THE DANGER.
WE'VE FACED OVERWHELMING ODDS BEFORE.
WE CAN DO THIS... AS LONG AS WE'RE TOGETHER.
YEAH... WE'VE HAD ENOUGH DRAMA TO MAKE ME SICK!
I'D HATE TO RUN INTO THOSE MARTIAN FELLAS AGAIN.
SOMEONE PROPOSED TO WOOTY!
SMIRK
UGH... THAT GUY WITH THE BEARD.
REALLY... A LOT HAS HAPPENED...
LOOKING BACK, NOTHING GOOD REALLY EVER HAPPENED TO LOUIS.
UGH...
AACKK
WHOOOA
IT'S STILL BAFFLING WHY LIZA FELL FOR HIM.
DRIP DRIP
W-WHAT ARE YOU TWO TALKING ABOUT?!

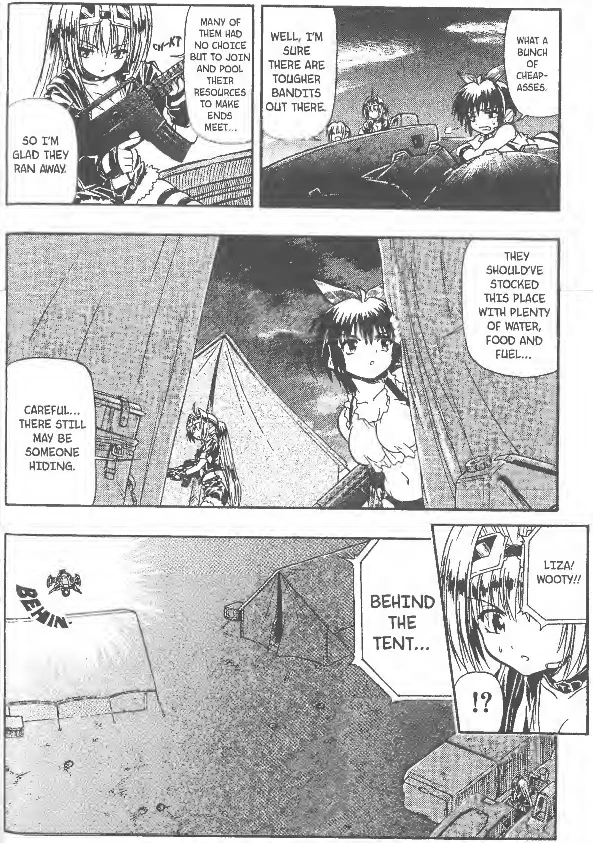

SO, HOW DID MOMMY AND DADDY'S RELATIONSHIP BLOSSOM INTO LOVE?
WHA...!
BLOSSOM INTO LOVE...? WHERE DID YOU LEARN A PHRASE LIKE THAT?
WHAK!
WHERE EVER IT MAY BE, IT'S MOSTLY IN THE TRAILER.
YOU MEAN YOU HAVEN'T TOLD HER SUCH AN IMPORTANT THING?
YEAH, LIKE, "THIS IS HOW MOMMY AND DADDY MET EACH OTHER, FELL IN LOVE, AND MAMET CAME TO LIFE!"
GRM GRM GRM
YOU GUYS...!
W-WELL, IT'S NOT SOMETHING WE HAVE TO HIDE... RIGHT?
OWWW
HUH? WELL...YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE HER TO LISTEN...
I DOOOO! I WANNA KNOW!
TELL ME TELL ME TELL ME TELL ME TELL ME TELL ME TELL ME TELL ME TELL ME TELL ME TELL ME TELL ME TELL ME TELL ME TELL METELL ME TELL ME...
TUG TUG
AIEEE
YES... IT WAS A COLD NIGHT WHEN WE ARRIVED AT THAT VILLAGE...
AW... YOU'RE GONNA SPILL IT?
RIGHT-ON!

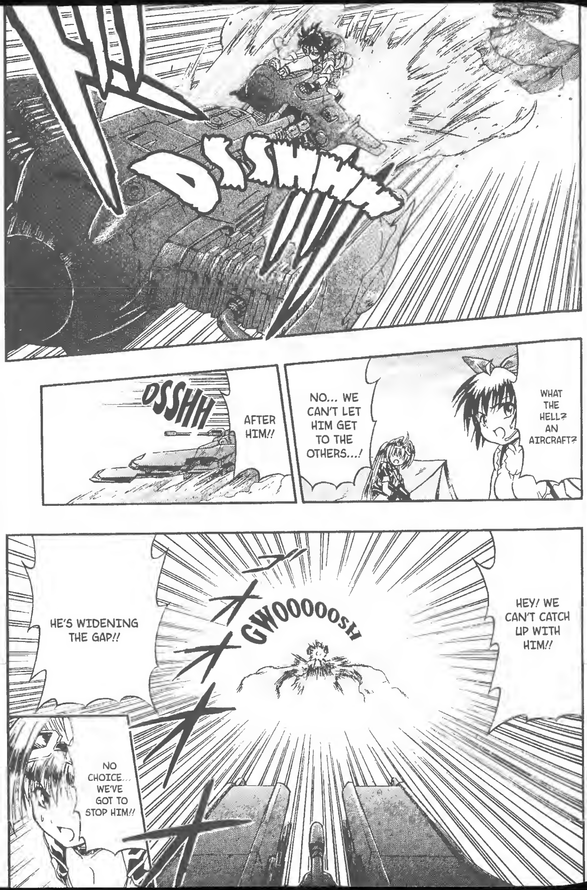

ACHOO!
BRRRR... GETTING CHILLY...
SNIFFF
VERY NASTY, WOOTY...
FOUND IT!
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE HAVING A BALL.
YUP. THEY'RE ON A RAZZLE-DAZZLE SPREE. THEY MUST BE REALLY OFF GUARD.
15-16 MEMBERS... THAT MUST BE THE BANDITS WHO ATTACKED THE VILLAGE OF ERUD THREE DAYS AGO.
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE NOT ARMED HEAVILY. I WAS RIGHT ABOUT TAKING SCORPION.

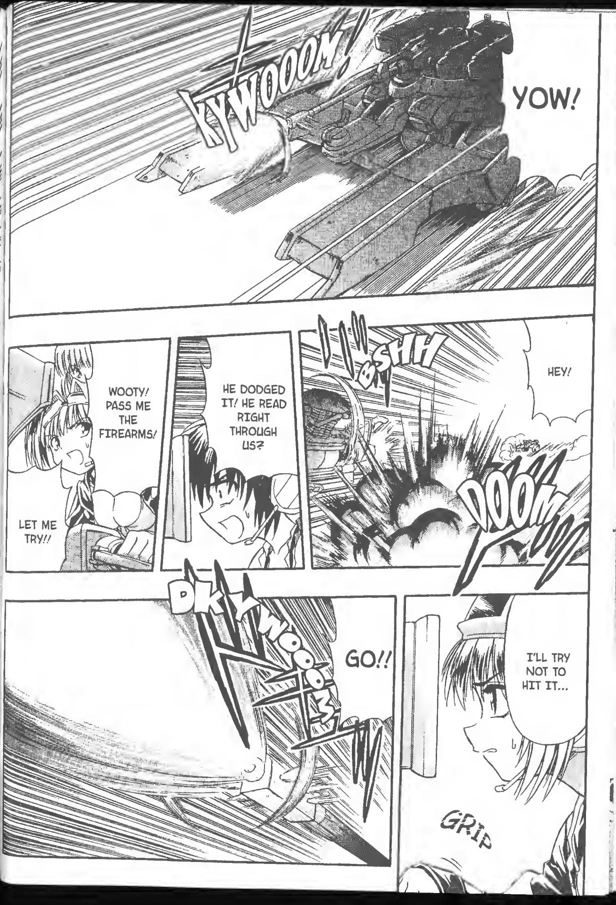

LET'S GET THE "TREASURE" AND BE ON OUR WAY, OKAY?
YOU MAKE US LOOK LIKE BANDITS SAYING IT LIKE THAT ...
BUT THE PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE WILL BE DRIED UP IF WE DON'T.
AND THEY WON'T LET US SHARE THEIR WATER.
SO WE HAVE NO CHOICE.
CRACKLE-KRACK
REALLY... IT'S THE BANDITS' FAULT THAT WE HAVE TO RESORT TO THIS NEEDLESS VIOLENCE...
OH I KNOW YOU'RE JUST ITCHING TO GO ON A RAMPAGE...
WE'RE HELPING PEOPLE BY BEATING THE CRAP OUT OF A BAD LOT AND WE'RE ALSO GETTING FOOD AND WATER!!
HEH-HEH-HEH
OF COURSE I'M ITCHING TO DO THIS!!
WHACK
JUST DO IT IN MODERATION...
WELL, SHALL WE GO THEN?
HHUYEEEE
HWSSSSSSH!!

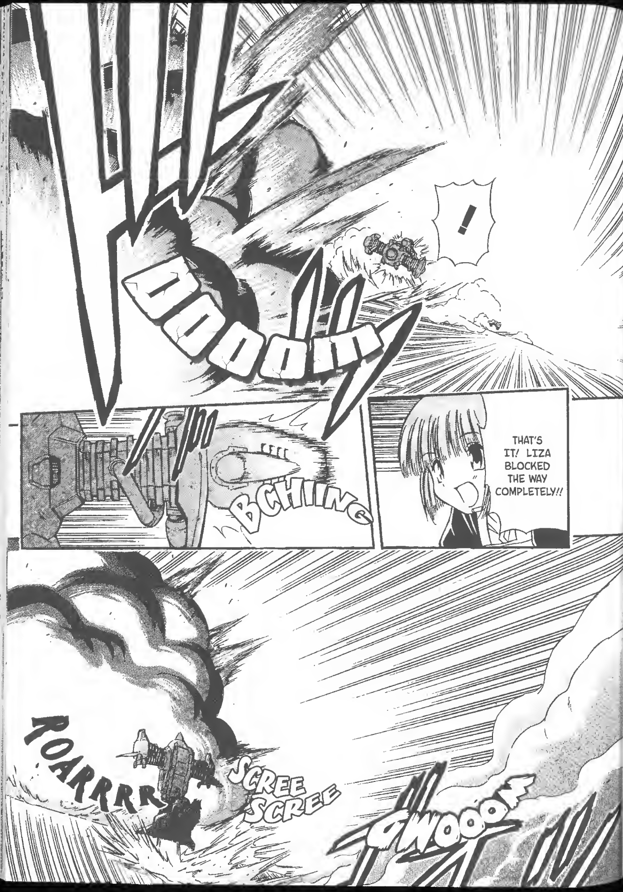

HA-HAHAHA
HOOT HOO
BADOOM
ドドン
WHOAAAACKK!?
WHAT THE!?
DON'T PANIC! TAKE WEAPONS!!
GHAAAAA!!
ズーン
THEY'RE AIMING AT THE VEHICLES!!
W-WHERE ARE THEY!?

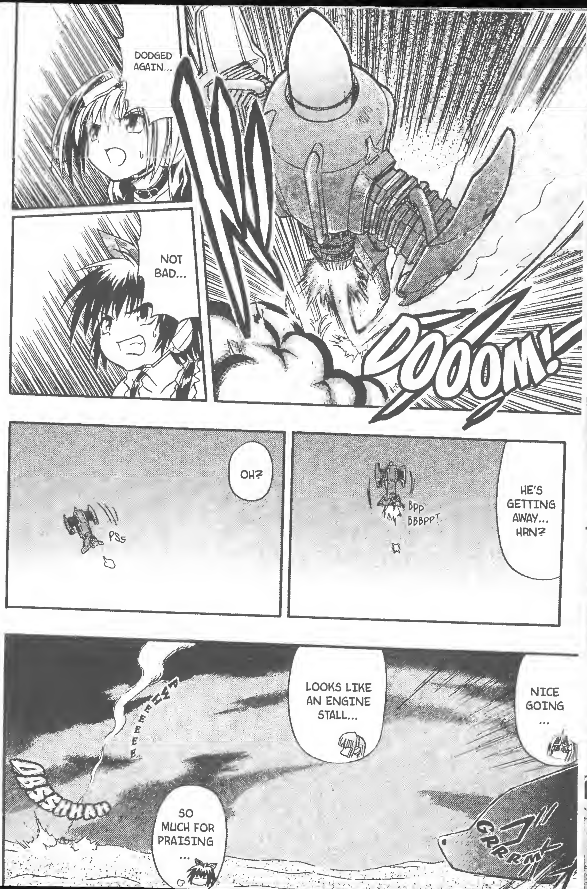

HYUUUUU
!
IT'S A TANK!!
OH CRAP!!
ZZSSHHH
CHECK ONE, TWO... TESTING, TESTING.
HELLO BANDITS AND BANDITOS, PLEASE LEAVE EVERYTHING YOU TOOK AND RUN FOR YOUR LIVES.
IF YOU FAIL TO COMPLY, WE'RE GOING TO SHOOT YOU!
THAT'S A KID SPEAKING... HEY, DON'T YOU LEAVE NOW!!
DAMN IT! DON'T LEAVE ME!
AW, COME ON MAN... THAT'S IT...?
BRRRRRM

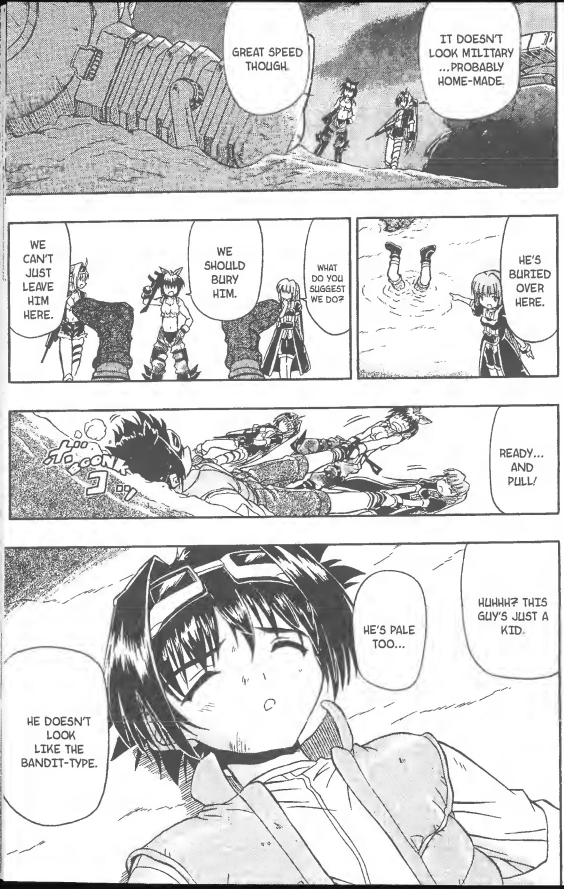

WHAT A BUNCH OF CHEAP-ASSES.
WELL, I'M SURE THERE ARE TOUGHER BANDITS OUT THERE.
MANY OF THEM HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO JOIN AND POOL THEIR RESOURCES TO MAKE ENDS MEET...
CH-KT
SO I'M GLAD THEY RAN AWAY.
THEY SHOULD'VE STOCKED THIS PLACE WITH PLENTY OF WATER, FOOD AND FUEL...
CAREFUL... THERE STILL MAY BE SOMEONE HIDING.
LIZA! WOOTY!!
!?
BEHIND THE TENT...
BEHIN-

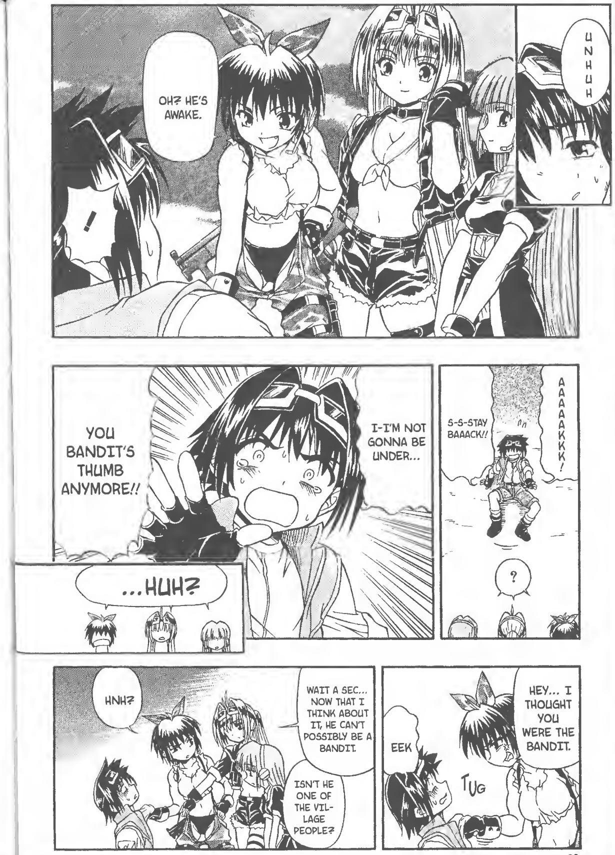

DSSHHH
WHAT THE HELL? AN AIRCRAFT?
NO... WE CAN'T LET HIM GET TO THE OTHERS...!
AFTER HIM!!
DSSHH
HEY! WE CAN'T CATCH UP WITH HIM!!
GWOOOOOSH
HE'S WIDENING THE GAP!!
NO CHOICE... WE'VE GOT TO STOP HIM!!

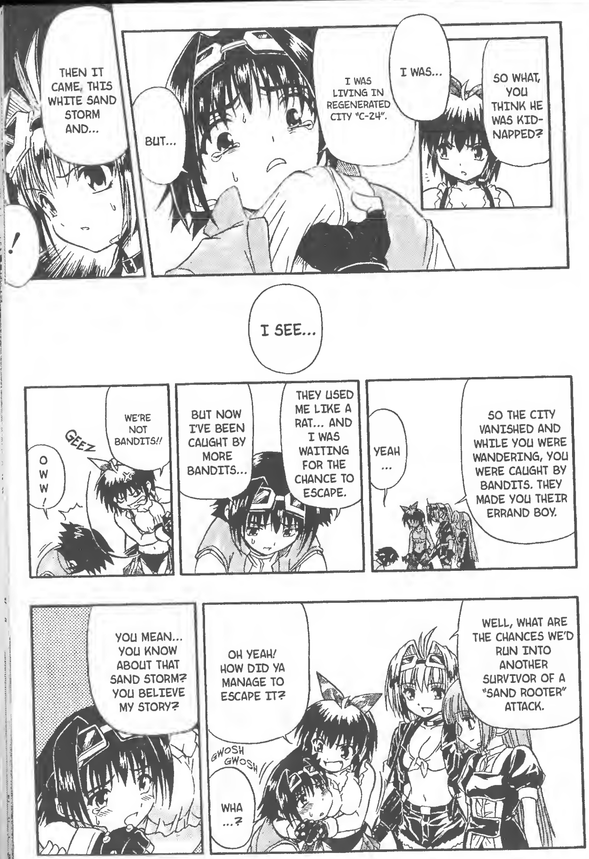

KYWOOOM!
YOW!
HEY!
BSHH
DOOM
HE DODGED IT! HE READ RIGHT THROUGH US?
WOOTY! PASS ME THE FIREARMS!
LET ME TRY!!
I'LL TRY NOT TO HIT IT...
GRIP
GO!!
DKYWOOOM

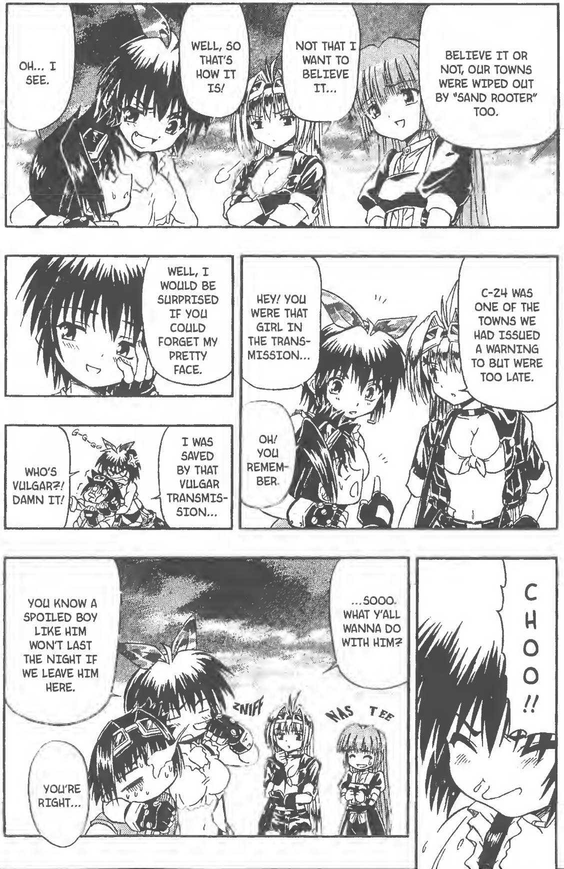

!
DOOOM
THAT'S IT! LIZA BLOCKED THE WAY COMPLETELY!!
BCHIING
GWOOOM
SCREE SCREE
ROARRRRR

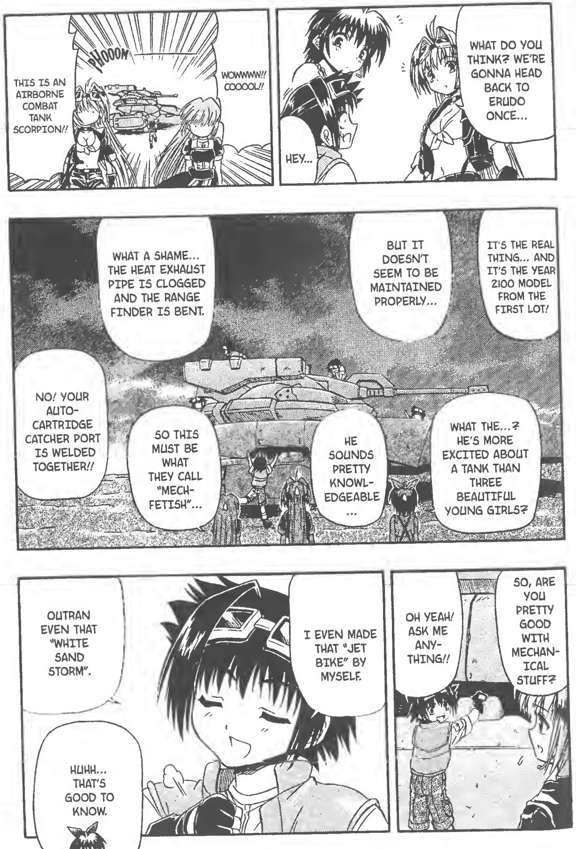

DODGED AGAIN...
NOT BAD...
DOOOM!
HE'S GETTING AWAY... HRN?
BPP BBBPPT
OH?
PSS
NICE GOING ...
LOOKS LIKE AN ENGINE STALL...
SO MUCH FOR PRAISING ...
GRRRM
DBSSHHHH

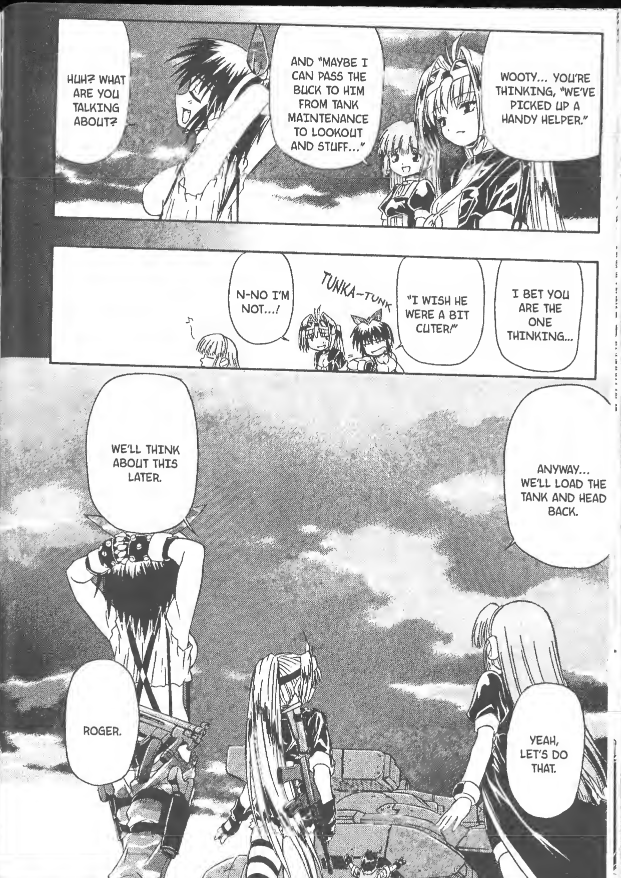

IT DOESN'T LOOK MILITARY ...PROBABLY HOME-MADE.
GREAT SPEED THOUGH.
HE'S BURIED OVER HERE.
WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST WE DO?
WE SHOULD BURY HIM.
WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE HIM HERE.
READY... AND PULL!
BOONK
HUHHH? THIS GUY'S JUST A KID.
HE'S PALE TOO...
HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE BANDIT-TYPE.

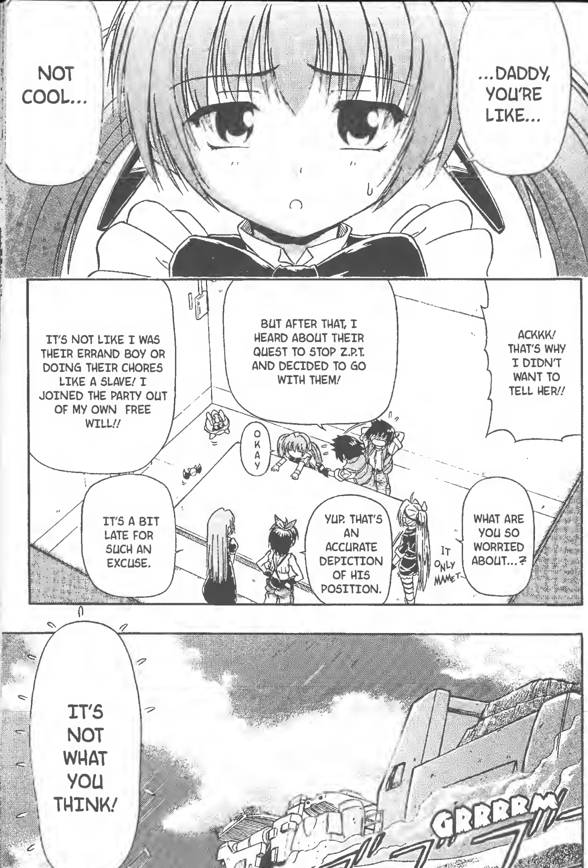

UNHUH
OH? HE'S AWAKE.
!
AAAAAKKK!
S-S-STAY BAAACK!!
?
I-I'M NOT GONNA BE UNDER...
YOU BANDIT'S THUMB ANYMORE!!
...HUH?
HEY... I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE BANDIT.
EEK
TUG
WAIT A SEC... NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, HE CAN'T POSSIBLY BE A BANDIT.
ISN'T HE ONE OF THE VILLAGE PEOPLE?
HNH?

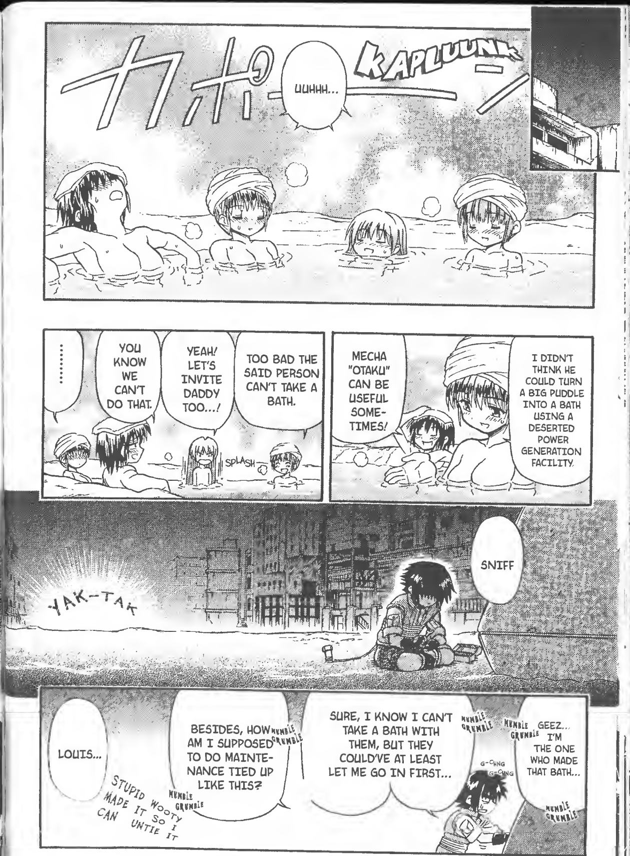

SO WHAT, YOU THINK HE WAS KIDNAPPED?
I WAS...
I WAS LIVING IN REGENERATED CITY "C-24".
BUT...
THEN IT CAME, THIS WHITE SAND STORM AND...
!
I SEE...
SO THE CITY VANISHED AND WHILE YOU WERE WANDERING, YOU WERE CAUGHT BY BANDITS. THEY MADE YOU THEIR ERRAND BOY.
YEAH...
THEY USED ME LIKE A RAT... AND I WAS WAITING FOR THE CHANCE TO ESCAPE.
BUT NOW I'VE BEEN CAUGHT BY MORE BANDITS...
WE'RE NOT BANDITS!!
GEEZ
OWW!
WELL, WHAT ARE THE CHANCES WE'D RUN INTO ANOTHER SURVIVOR OF A "SAND ROOTER" ATTACK.
OH YEAH! HOW DID YA MANAGE TO ESCAPE IT?
GWOSH GWOSH
WHA...?
YOU MEAN... YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT SAND STORM? YOU BELIEVE MY STORY?

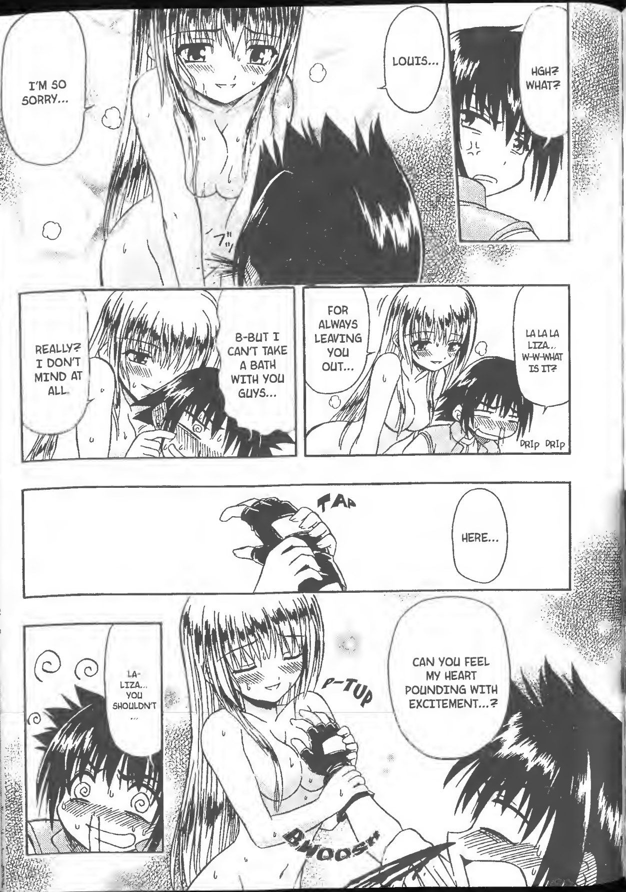

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, OUR TOWNS WERE WIPED OUT BY "SAND ROOTER" TOO.
NOT THAT I WANT TO BELIEVE IT...
WELL, SO THAT'S HOW IT IS!
OH... I SEE.
C-24 WAS ONE OF THE TOWNS WE HAD ISSUED A WARNING TO BUT WERE TOO LATE.
HEY! YOU WERE THAT GIRL IN THE TRANSMISSION...
OH! YOU REMEMBER.
WELL, I WOULD BE SURPRISED IF YOU COULD FORGET MY PRETTY FACE.
I WAS SAVED BY THAT VULGAR TRANSMISSION...
G-G-GO
WHO'S VULGAR?! DAMN IT!
CHOO!!
...SOOO. WHAT Y'ALL WANNA DO WITH HIM?
NAS TEE
ZNIFF
YOU KNOW A SPOILED BOY LIKE HIM WON'T LAST THE NIGHT IF WE LEAVE HIM HERE.
YOU'RE RIGHT...

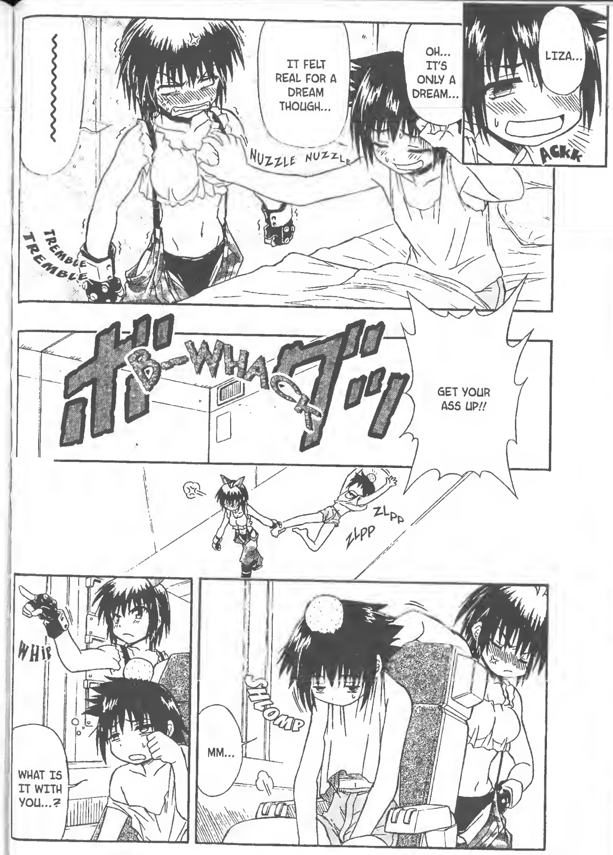

WHAT DO YOU THINK? WE'RE GONNA HEAD BACK TO ERUDO ONCE...
HEY...
WOWWWW!! COOOOL!!
PHOOON
THIS IS AN AIRBORNE COMBAT TANK SCORPION!!
IT'S THE REAL THING... AND IT'S THE YEAR 2100 MODEL FROM THE FIRST LOT!
BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE MAINTAINED PROPERLY...
WHAT A SHAME... THE HEAT EXHAUST PIPE IS CLOGGED AND THE RANGE FINDER IS BENT.
WHAT THE...? HE'S MORE EXCITED ABOUT A TANK THAN THREE BEAUTIFUL YOUNG GIRLS?
HE SOUNDS PRETTY KNOWLEDGEABLE...
SO THIS MUST BE WHAT THEY CALL "MECH-FETISH"...
NO! YOUR AUTO-CARTRIDGE CATCHER PORT IS WELDED TOGETHER!!
SO, ARE YOU PRETTY GOOD WITH MECHANICAL STUFF?
OH YEAH! ASK ME ANYTHING!!
I EVEN MADE THAT "JET BIKE" BY MYSELF.
OUTRAN EVEN THAT "WHITE SAND STORM".
HUHH... THAT'S GOOD TO KNOW.

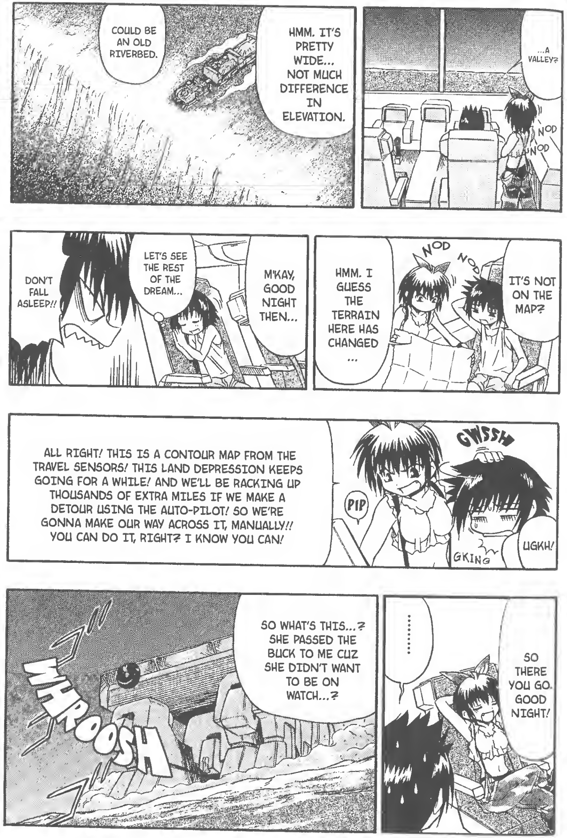

WOOTY... YOU'RE THINKING, "WE'VE PICKED UP A HANDY HELPER."
AND "MAYBE I CAN PASS THE BUCK TO HIM FROM TANK MAINTENANCE TO LOOKOUT AND STUFF..."
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I BET YOU ARE THE ONE THINKING...
"I WISH HE WERE A BIT CUTER!"
TUNKA-TUNK
N-NO I'M NOT...!
ANYWAY... WE'LL LOAD THE TANK AND HEAD BACK.
WE'LL THINK ABOUT THIS LATER.
YEAH, LET'S DO THAT.
ROGER.

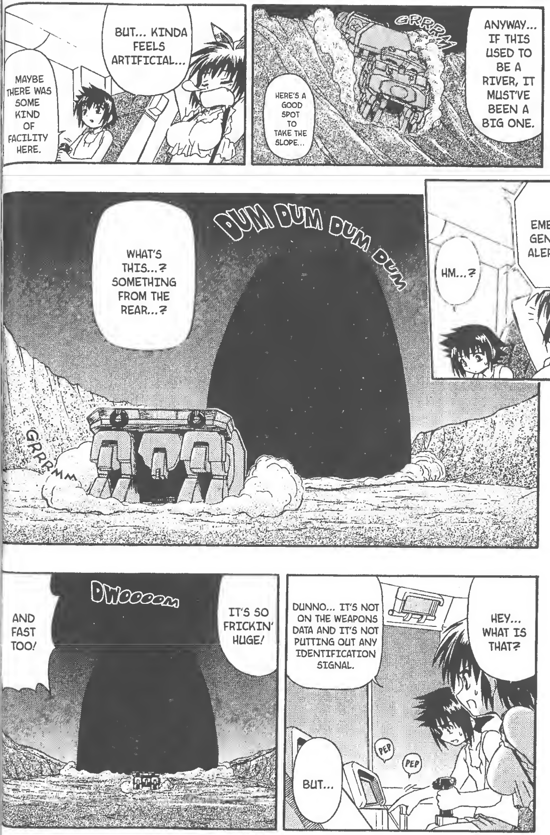

...DADDY, YOU'RE LIKE...
NOT COOL...
ACKKK! THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T WANT TO TELL HER!!
BUT AFTER THAT, I HEARD ABOUT THEIR QUEST TO STOP Z.P.T. AND DECIDED TO GO WITH THEM!
IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS THEIR ERRAND BOY OR DOING THEIR CHORES LIKE A SLAVE! I JOINED THE PARTY OUT OF MY OWN FREE WILL!!
OKAY
WHAT ARE YOU SO WORRIED ABOUT...?
IT ONLY MAMET
YUP. THAT'S AN ACCURATE DEPICTION OF HIS POSITION.
IT'S A BIT LATE FOR SUCH AN EXCUSE.
GRRRRM
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!

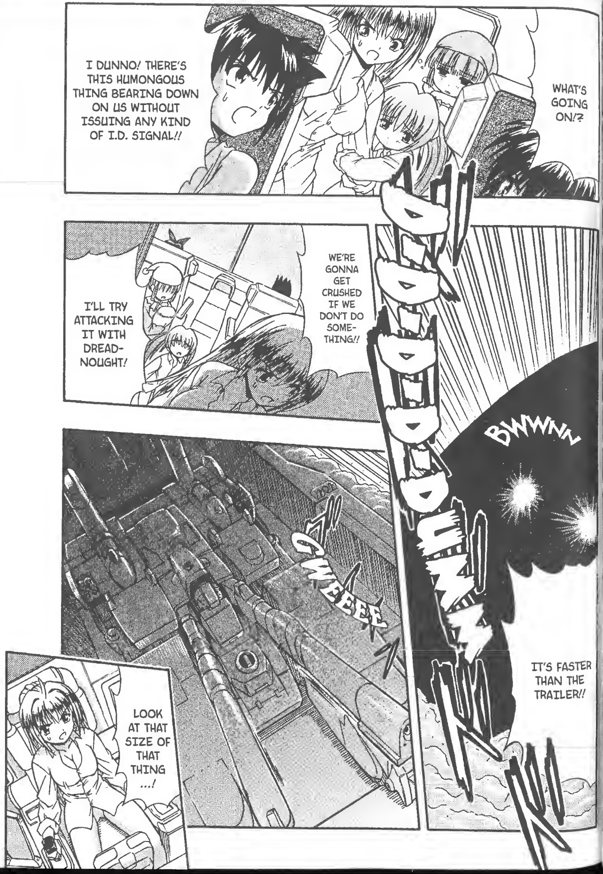

KAPLUUNK
カポー
UUHHH...
I DIDN'T THINK HE COULD TURN A BIG PUDDLE INTO A BATH USING A DESERTED POWER GENERATION FACILITY.
MECHA "OTAKU" CAN BE USEFUL SOMETIMES!
TOO BAD THE SAID PERSON CAN'T TAKE A BATH.
YEAH! LET'S INVITE DADDY TOO...!
YOU KNOW WE CAN'T DO THAT.
SPLASH
....
SNIFF
YAK-TAK
MUMBLE GRUMBLE
GEEZ... I'M THE ONE WHO MADE THAT BATH...
G-CHING G-CHING
MUMBLE GRUMBLE
MUMBLE GRUMBLE
SURE, I KNOW I CAN'T TAKE A BATH WITH THEM, BUT THEY COULD'VE AT LEAST LET ME GO IN FIRST...
MUMBLE GRUMBLE
BESIDES, HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO DO MAINTENANCE TIED UP LIKE THIS?
MUMBLE GRUMBLE
STUPID WOOTY MADE IT SO I CAN UNTIE IT
LOUIS...

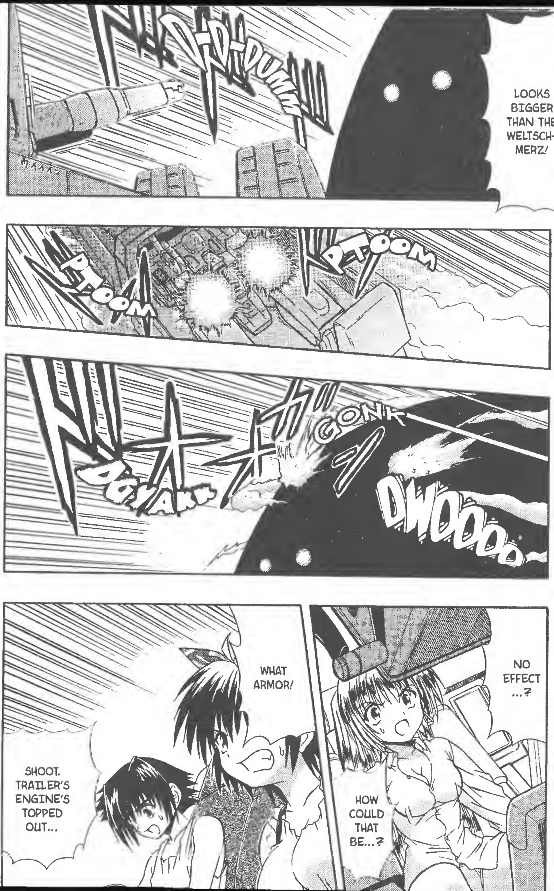

LOUIS...
HGH? WHAT?
I'M SO SORRY...
LA LA LA LIZA... W-W-WHAT IS IT?
DRIP DRIP
FOR ALWAYS LEAVING YOU OUT...
B-BUT I CAN'T TAKE A BATH WITH YOU GUYS...
REALLY? I DON'T MIND AT ALL.
HERE...
TAP
CAN YOU FEEL MY HEART POUNDING WITH EXCITEMENT...?
P-TUP
BWOOSH
LA-LIZA... YOU SHOULDN'T ...

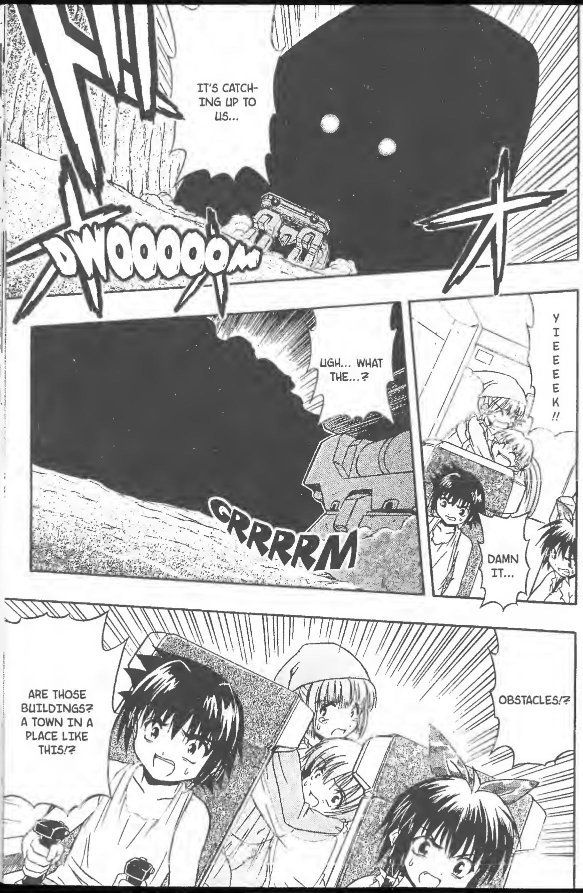

LIZA...
ACKK
OH... IT'S ONLY A DREAM...
IT FELT REAL FOR A DREAM THOUGH...
NUZZLE NUZZLE
TREMBLE TREMBLE
GET YOUR ASS UP!!
B-WHACK
ZLPP ZLPP
MM...
THOMP
WHAT IS IT WITH YOU...?
WHIP

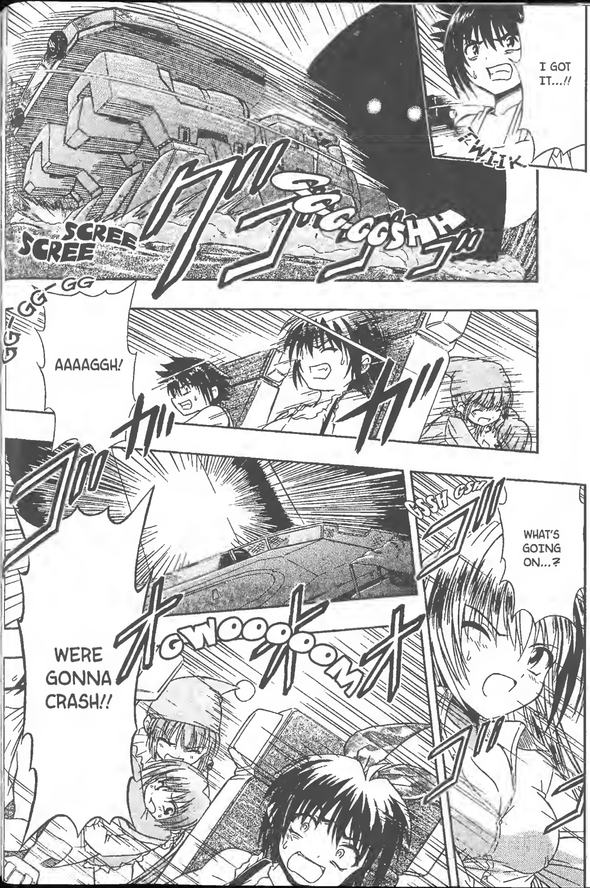

...A VALLEY?
NOD NOD
HMM. IT'S PRETTY WIDE... NOT MUCH DIFFERENCE IN ELEVATION.
COULD BE AN OLD RIVERBED.
IT'S NOT ON THE MAP?
NOD NOD
HMM. I GUESS THE TERRAIN HERE HAS CHANGED...
M'KAY, GOOD NIGHT THEN...
LET'S SEE THE REST OF THE DREAM...
DON'T FALL ASLEEP!!
UGKH!
GKING
GWSSH
PIP
ALL RIGHT! THIS IS A CONTOUR MAP FROM THE TRAVEL SENSORS! THIS LAND DEPRESSION KEEPS GOING FOR A WHILE! AND WE'LL BE RACKING UP THOUSANDS OF EXTRA MILES IF WE MAKE A DETOUR USING THE AUTO-PILOT! SO WE'RE GONNA MAKE OUR WAY ACROSS IT, MANUALLY!! YOU CAN DO IT, RIGHT? I KNOW YOU CAN!
SO THERE YOU GO. GOOD NIGHT!
....
SO WHAT'S THIS...? SHE PASSED THE BUCK TO ME CUZ SHE DIDN'T WANT TO BE ON WATCH...?
WHROOSH

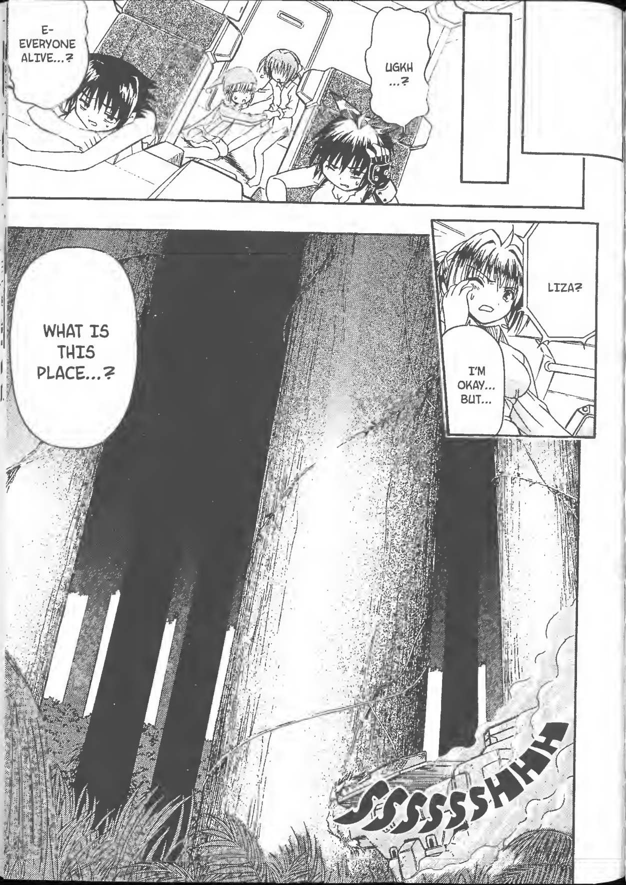

ANYWAY... IF THIS USED TO BE A RIVER, IT MUST'VE BEEN A BIG ONE.
GRRRM
HERE'S A GOOD SPOT TO TAKE THE SLOPE...
BUT... KINDA FEELS ARTIFICIAL...
MAYBE THERE WAS SOME KIND OF FACILITY HERE.
EMERGENCY ALERT!!
HM...?
DUM DUM DUM DUM DUM
WHAT'S THIS...? SOMETHING FROM THE REAR...?
GRRRMM
HEY... WHAT IS THAT?
DUNNO... IT'S NOT ON THE WEAPONS DATA AND IT'S NOT PUTTING OUT ANY IDENTIFICATION SIGNAL.
PEP
PEP
BUT...
DWOOOOM
IT'S SO FRICKIN' HUGE!
AND FAST TOO!


WHAT'S GOING ON!?
I DUNNO! THERE'S THIS HUMONGOUS THING BEARING DOWN ON US WITHOUT ISSUING ANY KIND OF I.D. SIGNAL!!
WE'RE GONNA GET CRUSHED IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING!!
I'LL TRY ATTACKING IT WITH DREADNOUGHT!
BWWNN
IT'S FASTER THAN THE TRAILER!!
GWEEEE
LOOK AT THAT SIZE OF THAT THING...!

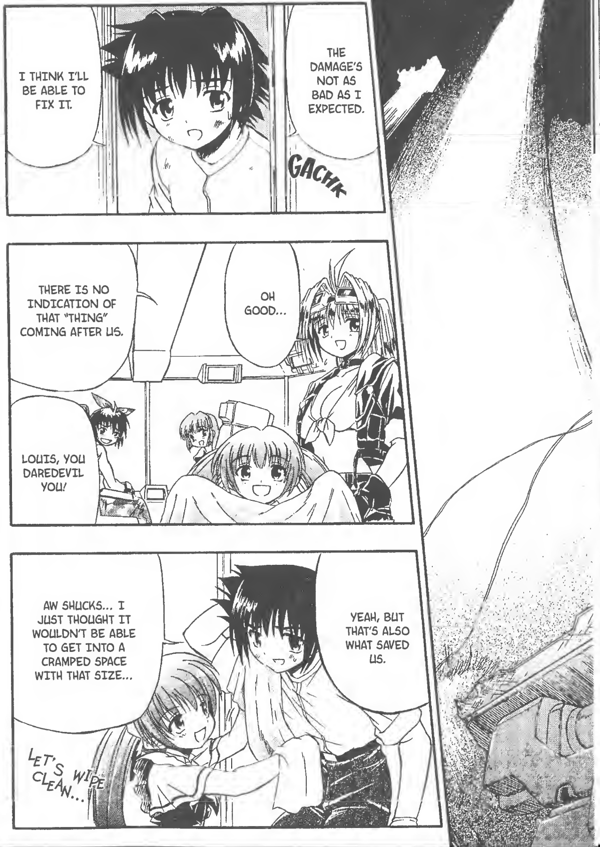

DIDIDUMM!!!
LOOKS BIGGER THAN THE WELTSCHMERZ!
PTOOM
PTOOM
PTOOM
GONK
DGYAK
DWOOOOO
NO EFFECT ...?
HOW COULD THAT BE...?
WHAT ARMOR!
SHOOT. TRAILER'S ENGINE'S TOPPED OUT...

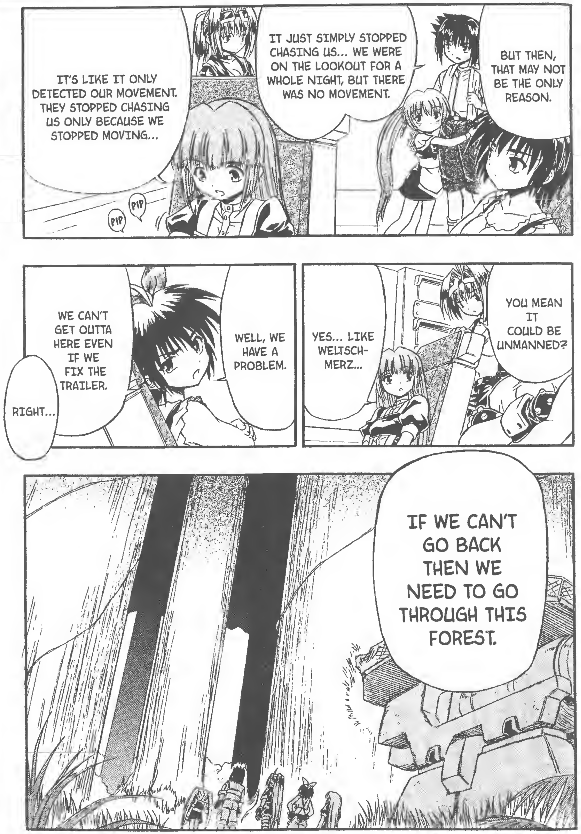

IT'S CATCHING UP TO US...
DWOOOOOM
YIEEEEEK!!
DAMN IT...
UGH... WHAT THE...?
GRRRRRM
OBSTACLES!?
ARE THOSE BUILDINGS? A TOWN IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!?

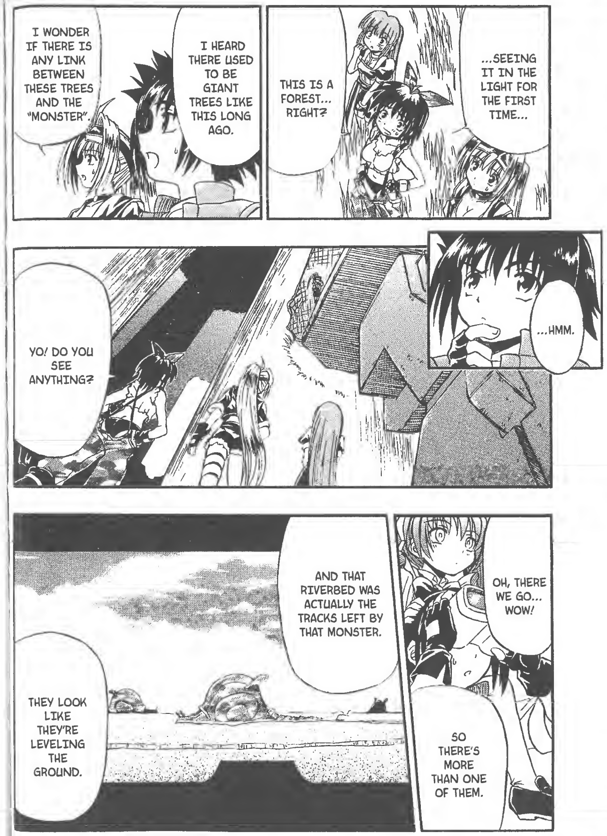

I GOT IT...!!
FWIIK
GGGGGSHH
SCREE SCREE
GG-GG-GG
AAAAGGH!
GSSH GSH
WHAT'S GOING ON...?
WERE GONNA CRASH!!
GWOOOOOOM

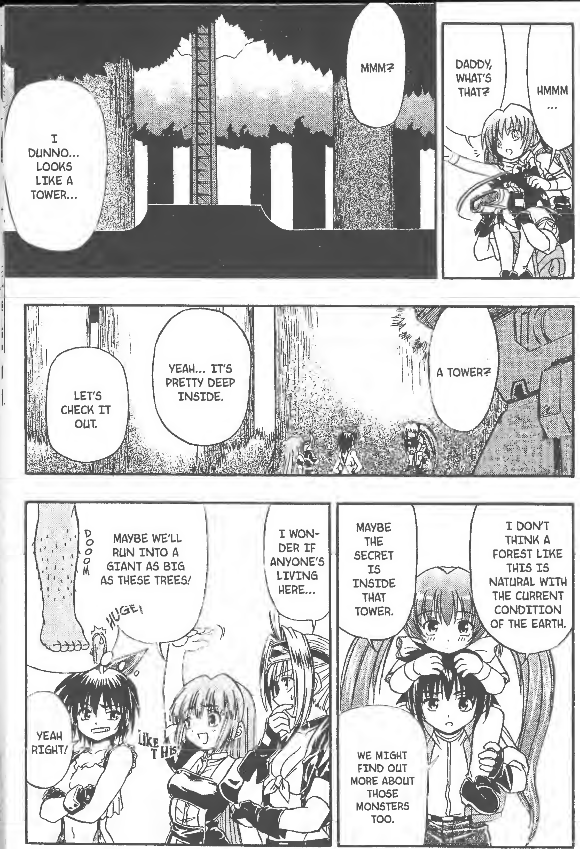

UGKH ...?
E- EVERYONE ALIVE...?
LIZA?
I'M OKAY... BUT...
WHAT IS THIS PLACE...?
SSSSSSHHHH

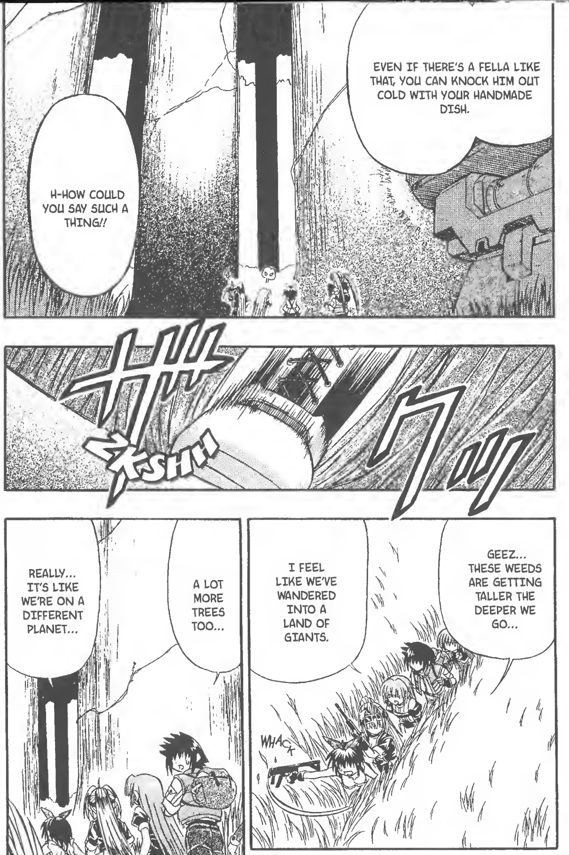
#16 SEED MAN

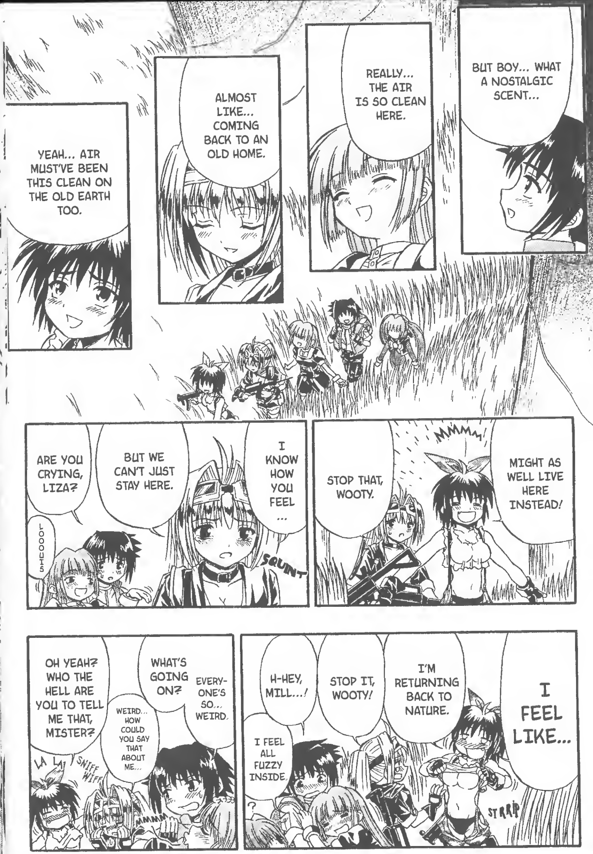

THE DAMAGE'S NOT AS BAD AS I EXPECTED.
I THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO FIX IT.
GACHK
OH GOOD...
THERE IS NO INDICATION OF THAT "THING" COMING AFTER US.
LOUIS, YOU DAREDEVIL YOU!
YEAH, BUT THAT'S ALSO WHAT SAVED US.
AW SHUCKS... I JUST THOUGHT IT WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO GET INTO A CRAMPED SPACE WITH THAT SIZE...
LET'S WIPE CLEAN...

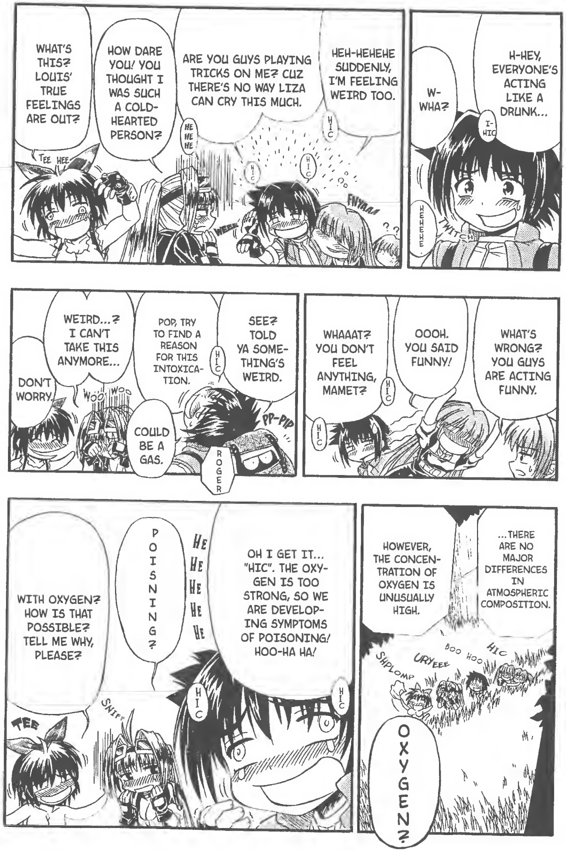

IT JUST SIMPLY STOPPED CHASING US... WE WERE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR A WHOLE NIGHT, BUT THERE WAS NO MOVEMENT.
IT'S LIKE IT ONLY DETECTED OUR MOVEMENT. THEY STOPPED CHASING US ONLY BECAUSE WE STOPPED MOVING...
PIP
PIP
BUT THEN, THAT MAY NOT BE THE ONLY REASON.
YOU MEAN IT COULD BE UNMANNED?
YES... LIKE WELTSCHMERZ...
WELL, WE HAVE A PROBLEM.
WE CAN'T GET OUTTA HERE EVEN IF WE FIX THE TRAILER.
RIGHT...
IF WE CAN'T GO BACK THEN WE NEED TO GO THROUGH THIS FOREST.

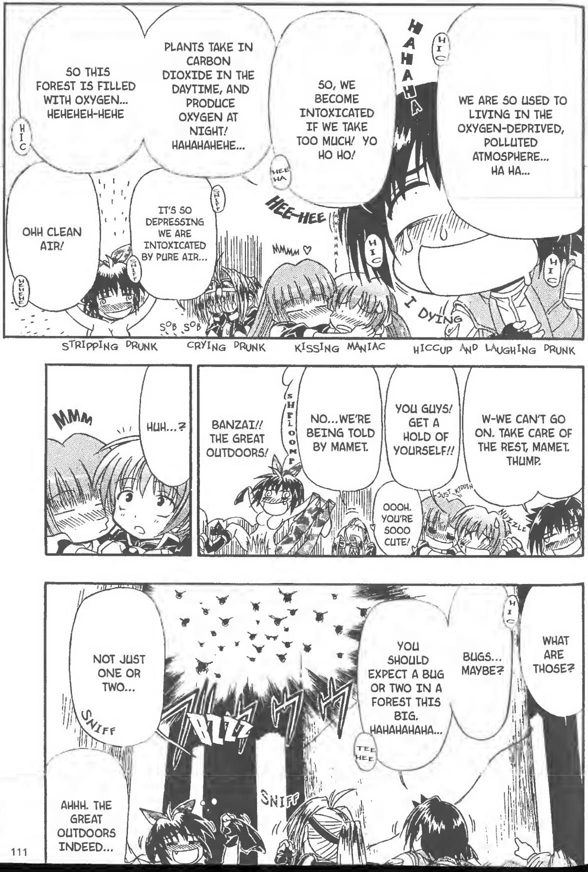

...SEEING IT IN THE LIGHT FOR THE FIRST TIME...
THIS IS A FOREST... RIGHT?
I HEARD THERE USED TO BE GIANT TREES LIKE THIS LONG AGO.
I WONDER IF THERE IS ANY LINK BETWEEN THESE TREES AND THE "MONSTER".
...HMM.
YO! DO YOU SEE ANYTHING?
OH, THERE WE GO... WOW!
SO THERE'S MORE THAN ONE OF THEM.
AND THAT RIVERBED WAS ACTUALLY THE TRACKS LEFT BY THAT MONSTER.
THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'RE LEVELING THE GROUND.

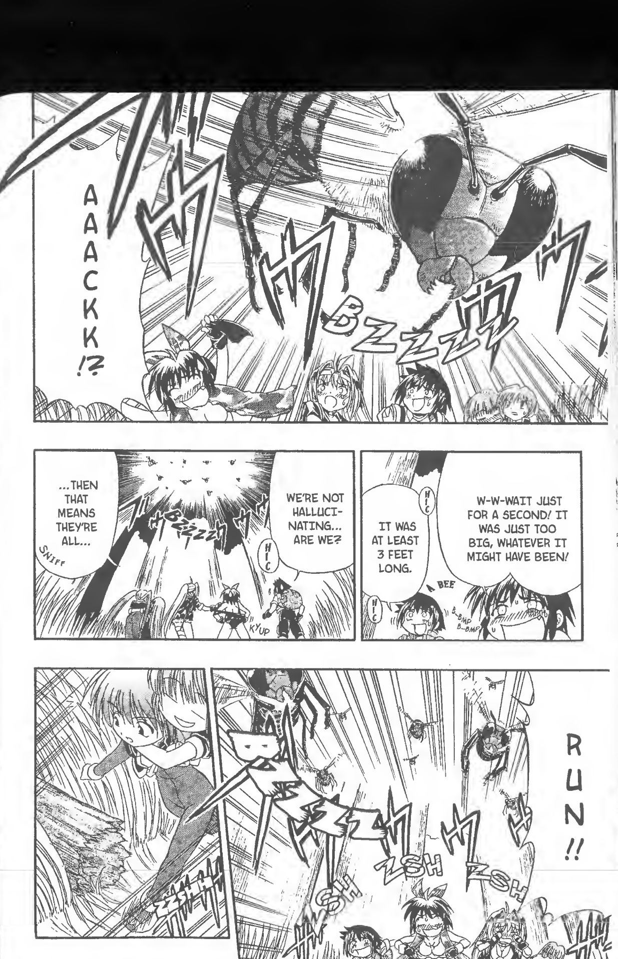

HMMM...
DADDY, WHAT'S THAT?
MMM?
I DUNNO... LOOKS LIKE A TOWER...
A TOWER?
YEAH... IT'S PRETTY DEEP INSIDE.
LET'S CHECK IT OUT.
I DON'T THINK A FOREST LIKE THIS IS NATURAL WITH THE CURRENT CONDITION OF THE EARTH.
MAYBE THE SECRET IS INSIDE THAT TOWER.
WE MIGHT FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THOSE MONSTERS TOO.
I WONDER IF ANYONE'S LIVING HERE...
MAYBE WE'LL RUN INTO A GIANT AS BIG AS THESE TREES!
DOOOM
HUGE!
LIKE THIS
YEAH RIGHT!

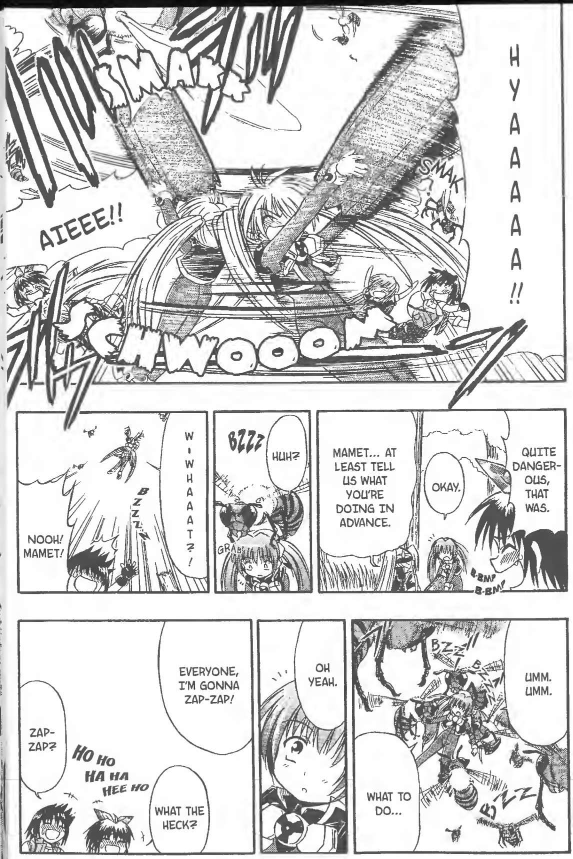

EVEN IF THERE'S A FELLA LIKE THAT, YOU CAN KNOCK HIM OUT COLD WITH YOUR HANDMADE DISH.
H-HOW COULD YOU SAY SUCH A THING!!
ZASHH
GEEZ... THESE WEEDS ARE GETTING TALLER THE DEEPER WE GO...
I FEEL LIKE WE'VE WANDERED INTO A LAND OF GIANTS.
WHACK
A LOT MORE TREES TOO...
REALLY... IT'S LIKE WE'RE ON A DIFFERENT PLANET...

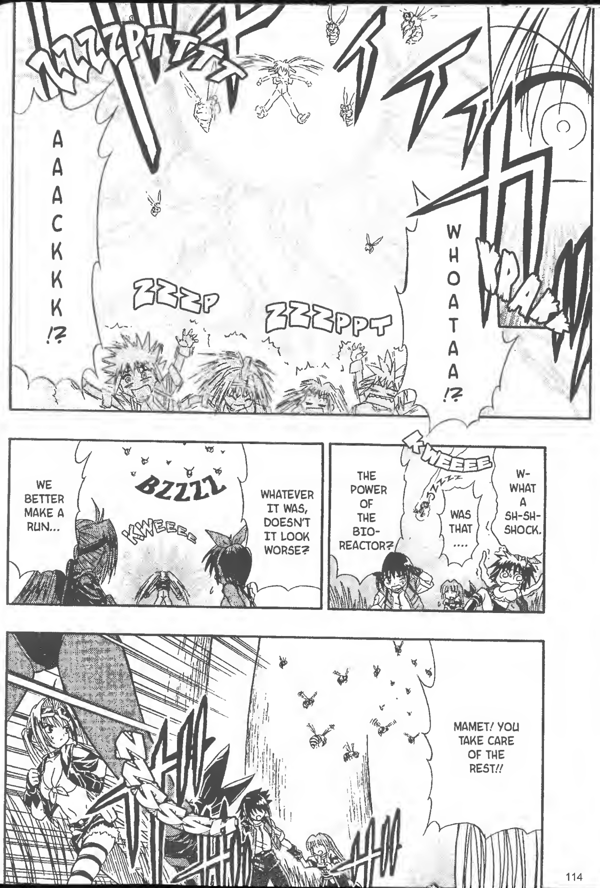

BUT BOY... WHAT A NOSTALGIC SCENT...
REALLY... THE AIR IS SO CLEAN HERE.
ALMOST LIKE... COMING BACK TO AN OLD HOME.
YEAH... AIR MUST'VE BEEN THIS CLEAN ON THE OLD EARTH TOO.
MMMM!
MIGHT AS WELL LIVE HERE INSTEAD!
STOP THAT, WOOTY.
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL...
BUT WE CAN'T JUST STAY HERE.
SQUINT
ARE YOU CRYING, LIZA?
LOOOUIS
I FEEL LIKE...
I'M RETURNING BACK TO NATURE.
STOP IT, WOOTY!
H-HEY, MILL...!
I FEEL ALL FUZZY INSIDE.
STRRIP
EVERY-ONE'S SO... WEIRD.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
OH YEAH? WHO THE HELL ARE YOU TO TELL ME THAT, MISTER?
WEIRD... HOW COULD YOU SAY THAT ABOUT ME...
SNIFF
LA LA
MMMM

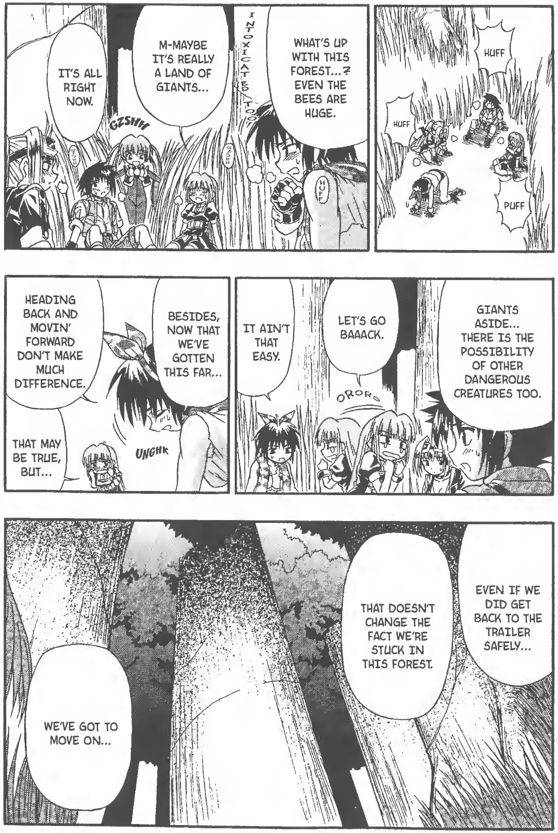

H-HEY, EVERYONE'S ACTING LIKE A DRUNK...
I-HIC
W-WHA?
HEHEHE
TWITCH
HEH-HEHEHE SUDDENLY, I'M FEELING WEIRD TOO.
HIC
ARE YOU GUYS PLAYING TRICKS ON ME? CUZ THERE'S NO WAY LIZA CAN CRY THIS MUCH.
HOW DARE YOU! YOU THOUGHT I WAS SUCH A COLD-HEARTED PERSON?
WHAT'S THIS? LOUIS' TRUE FEELINGS ARE OUT?
TEE HEE
HE HE HE
HIC
HIC
FNYAAA
??
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU GUYS ARE ACTING FUNNY.
OOOH. YOU SAID FUNNY!
WHAAAT? YOU DON'T FEEL ANYTHING, MAMET?
HIC
HIC
SEE? TOLD YA SOME-THING'S WEIRD.
HIC
POP, TRY TO FIND A REASON FOR THIS INTOXICA-TION.
PP-PIP
ROGER
WEIRD...? I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE...
COULD BE A GAS.
DON'T WORRY.
WOO WOO
...THERE ARE NO MAJOR DIFFERENCES IN ATMOSPHERIC COMPOSITION.
HOWEVER, THE CONCEN-TRATION OF OXYGEN IS UNUSUALLY HIGH.
HIC
BOO HOO
URYEEE
SHPLOMP
OXYGEN?
OH I GET IT... "HIC". THE OXY-GEN IS TOO STRONG, SO WE ARE DEVELOP-ING SYMPTOMS OF POISONING! HOO-HA HA!
HE HE HE HE HE
POISONING?
WITH OXYGEN? HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE? TELL ME WHY, PLEASE?
HIC
HIC
SNIFF
TEE

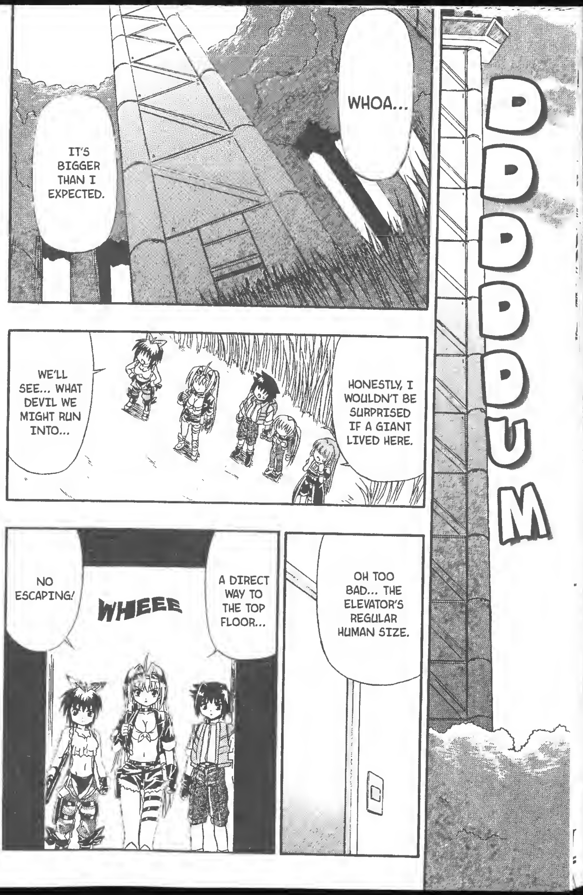

WE ARE SO USED TO LIVING IN THE OXYGEN-DEPRIVED, POLLUTED ATMOSPHERE... HA HA...
HIC
HAHAHAHA
SO, WE BECOME INTOXICATED IF WE TAKE TOO MUCH! YO HO HO!
HEE HA
PLANTS TAKE IN CARBON DIOXIDE IN THE DAYTIME, AND PRODUCE OXYGEN AT NIGHT! HAHAHAHEHE...
SO THIS FOREST IS FILLED WITH OXYGEN... HEHEHEH-HEHE
HIC
IT'S SO DEPRESSING WE ARE INTOXICATED BY PURE AIR...
SNIFF
OHH CLEAN AIR!
HEHEHE
HEE-HEE
MMMM ♡
HIC
HIC
I DYING
SOB SOB
STRIPPING DRUNK
CRYING DRUNK
KISSING MANIAC
HICCUP AND LAUGHING DRUNK
W-WE CAN'T GO ON. TAKE CARE OF THE REST, MAMET. THUMP.
YOU GUYS! GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!!
NO...WE'RE BEING TOLD BY MAMET.
SHPLOOMP
BANZAI!! THE GREAT OUTDOORS!
OOOH. YOU'RE SOOO CUTE!
JUST KIDDIN
NUZZLE
HUH...?
MMM
WHAT ARE THOSE?
HIC
BUGS... MAYBE?
YOU SHOULD EXPECT A BUG OR TWO IN A FOREST THIS BIG. HAHAHAHAHA...
TEE HEE
NOT JUST ONE OR TWO...
SNIFF
BZZZ
AHHH. THE GREAT OUTDOORS INDEED...
SNIFF

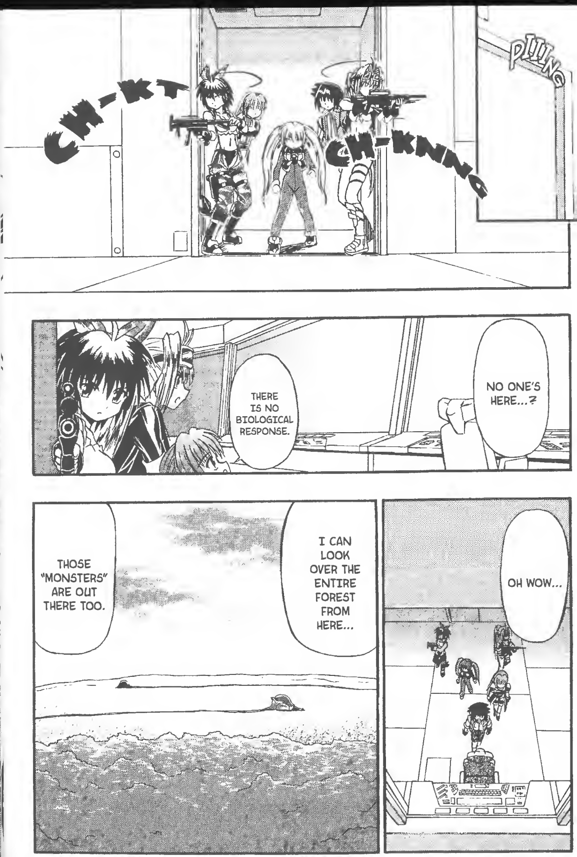

AAACKK!?
BZZZ
W-W-WAIT JUST FOR A SECOND! IT WAS JUST TOO BIG, WHATEVER IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN!
IT WAS AT LEAST 3 FEET LONG.
HIC
A BEE
B-BMP B-BMP
HIC
WE'RE NOT HALLUCINATING... ARE WE?
HIC
KYUP
BZZZZ
...THEN THAT MEANS THEY'RE ALL...
SNIFF
RUN!!
ZSH ZSH ZSH

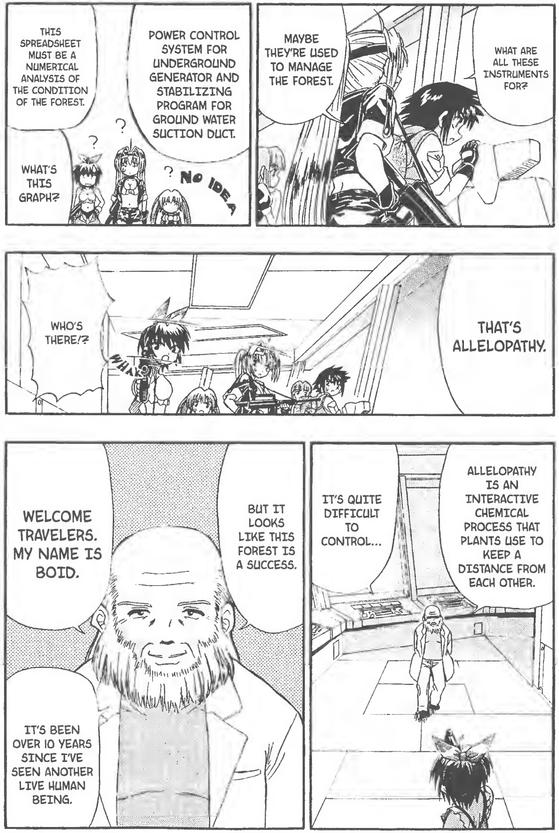

HYAAAAAAA!!
SMAK
SMAK
AIEEE!!
SHWOOM
QUITE DANGEROUS, THAT WAS.
OKAY.
MAMET... AT LEAST TELL US WHAT YOU'RE DOING IN ADVANCE.
B-BMP B-BMP
HUH?
BZZZ
GRAB
W-WHAAAAT?!
BZZZ
NOOH! MAMET!
UMM. UMM.
BZZ
BZZ
WHAT TO DO...
OH YEAH.
EVERYONE, I'M GONNA ZAP-ZAP!
ZAP-ZAP?
HO HO HA HA HEE HO
WHAT THE HECK?

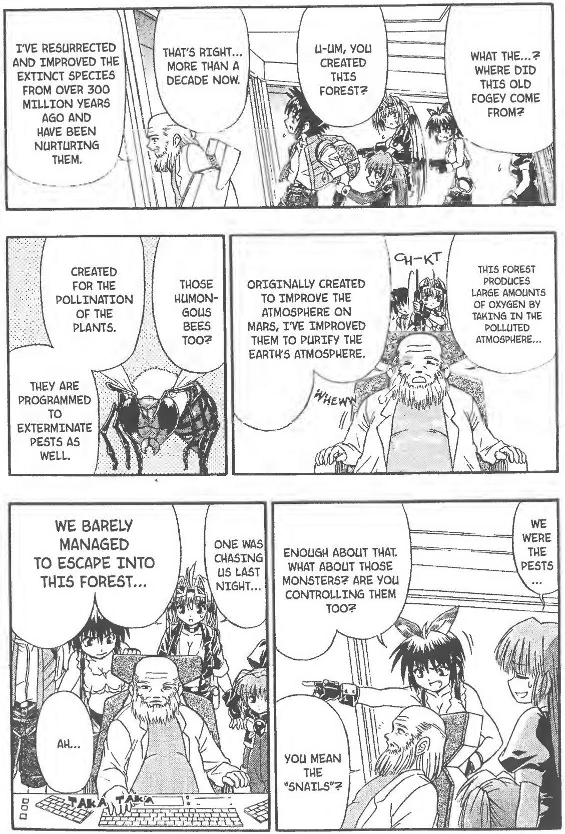

ZZZZZPTTTTT
AAACKKKK!?
WHOATAA!?
VPAK
ZZZP
ZZZPPT
KWEEEE
W-WHAT A SH-SH-SHOCK.
WAS THAT....
THE POWER OF THE BIO-REACTOR?
WHATEVER IT WAS, DOESN'T IT LOOK WORSE?
BZZZZ
KWEEEEE
WE BETTER MAKE A RUN...
MAMET! YOU TAKE CARE OF THE REST!!

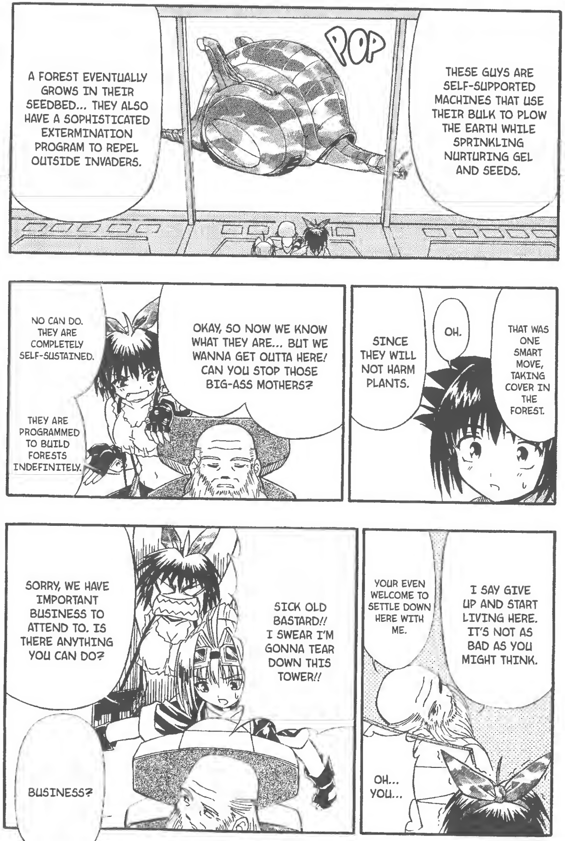

HUFF
HUFF
PUFF
WHAT'S UP WITH THIS FOREST...? EVEN THE BEES ARE HUGE.
INTOXICATED TOO
HUFF
M-MAYBE IT'S REALLY A LAND OF GIANTS...
IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW.
GZSHH
GIANTS ASIDE... THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY OF OTHER DANGEROUS CREATURES TOO.
LET'S GO BAAACK.
IT AIN'T THAT EASY.
ORORO
BESIDES, NOW THAT WE'VE GOTTEN THIS FAR...
HEADING BACK AND MOVIN' FORWARD DON'T MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE.
UNGHK
THAT MAY BE TRUE, BUT...
EVEN IF WE DID GET BACK TO THE TRAILER SAFELY...
THAT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT WE'RE STUCK IN THIS FOREST.
WE'VE GOT TO MOVE ON...


DDDDDUM
WHOA...
IT'S BIGGER THAN I EXPECTED.
HONESTLY, I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF A GIANT LIVED HERE.
WE'LL SEE... WHAT DEVIL WE MIGHT RUN INTO...
OH TOO BAD... THE ELEVATOR'S REGULAR HUMAN SIZE.
A DIRECT WAY TO THE TOP FLOOR...
WHEEE
NO ESCAPING!

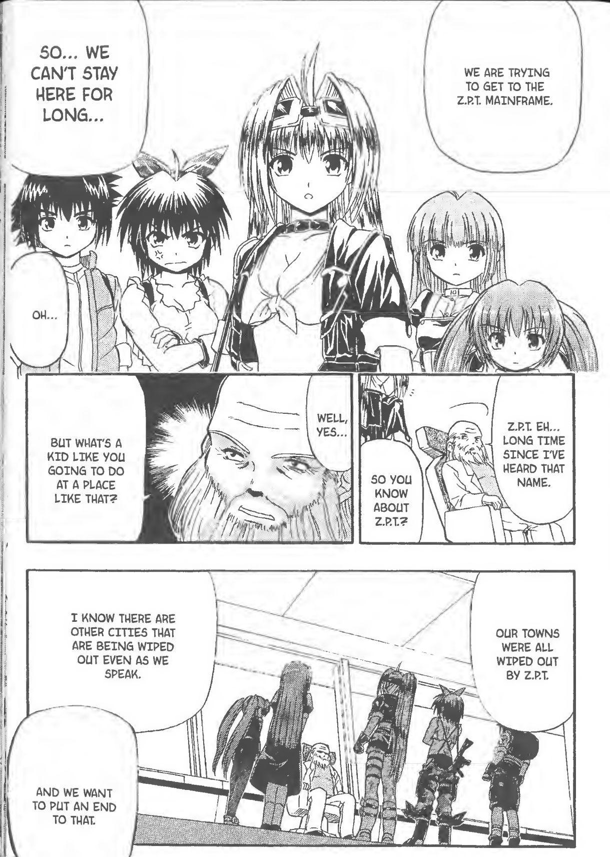

PIIING
CH-KNNG
CH-KT
NO ONE'S HERE...?
THERE IS NO BIOLOGICAL RESPONSE.
OH WOW...
I CAN LOOK OVER THE ENTIRE FOREST FROM HERE...
THOSE "MONSTERS" ARE OUT THERE TOO.


WHAT ARE ALL THESE INSTRUMENTS FOR?
MAYBE THEY'RE USED TO MANAGE THE FOREST.
POWER CONTROL SYSTEM FOR UNDERGROUND GENERATOR AND STABILIZING PROGRAM FOR GROUND WATER SUCTION DUCT.
THIS SPREADSHEET MUST BE A NUMERICAL ANALYSIS OF THE CONDITION OF THE FOREST.
WHAT'S THIS GRAPH?
NO IDEA
THAT'S ALLELOPATHY.
WHO'S THERE!?
WHAK
ALLELOPATHY IS AN INTERACTIVE CHEMICAL PROCESS THAT PLANTS USE TO KEEP A DISTANCE FROM EACH OTHER.
IT'S QUITE DIFFICULT TO CONTROL...
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THIS FOREST IS A SUCCESS.
WELCOME TRAVELERS. MY NAME IS BOID.
IT'S BEEN OVER 10 YEARS SINCE I'VE SEEN ANOTHER LIVE HUMAN BEING.

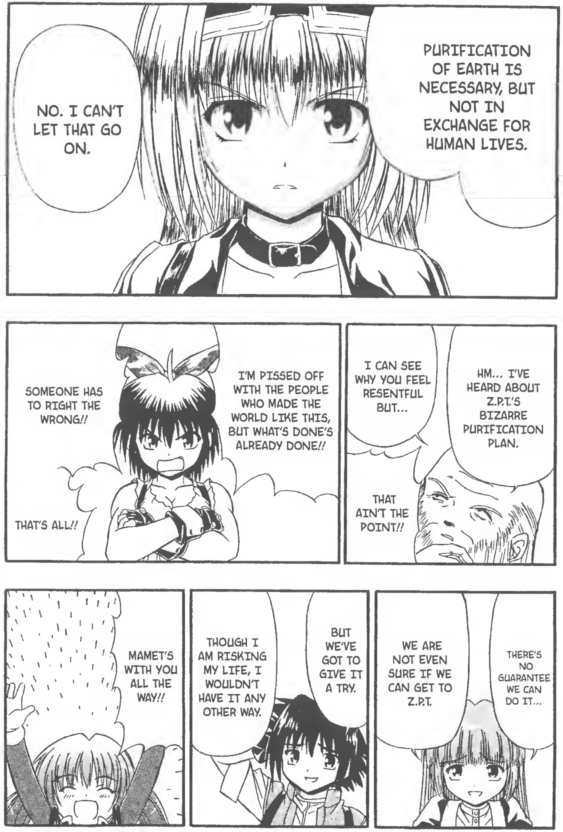

WHAT THE...? WHERE DID THIS OLD FOGEY COME FROM?
U-UM, YOU CREATED THIS FOREST?
THAT'S RIGHT... MORE THAN A DECADE NOW.
I'VE RESURRECTED AND IMPROVED THE EXTINCT SPECIES FROM OVER 300 MILLION YEARS AGO AND HAVE BEEN NURTURING THEM.
THIS FOREST PRODUCES LARGE AMOUNTS OF OXYGEN BY TAKING IN THE POLLUTED ATMOSPHERE...
CH-KT
ORIGINALLY CREATED TO IMPROVE THE ATMOSPHERE ON MARS, I'VE IMPROVED THEM TO PURIFY THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE.
WHEWW
THOSE HUMONGOUS BEES TOO?
CREATED FOR THE POLLINATION OF THE PLANTS.
THEY ARE PROGRAMMED TO EXTERMINATE PESTS AS WELL.
WE WERE THE PESTS...
ENOUGH ABOUT THAT. WHAT ABOUT THOSE MONSTERS? ARE YOU CONTROLLING THEM TOO?
YOU MEAN THE "SNAILS"?
ONE WAS CHASING US LAST NIGHT...
WE BARELY MANAGED TO ESCAPE INTO THIS FOREST...
AH...
TAKA TAKA

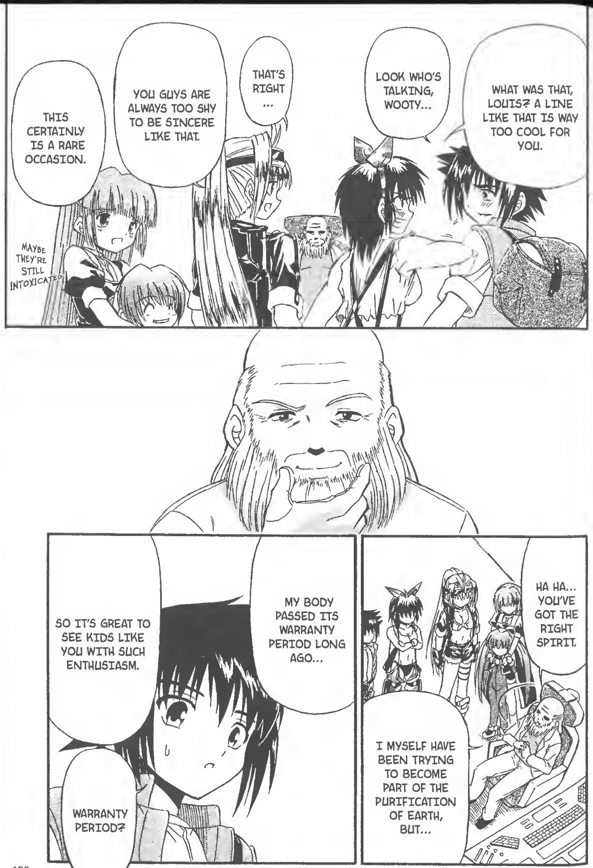


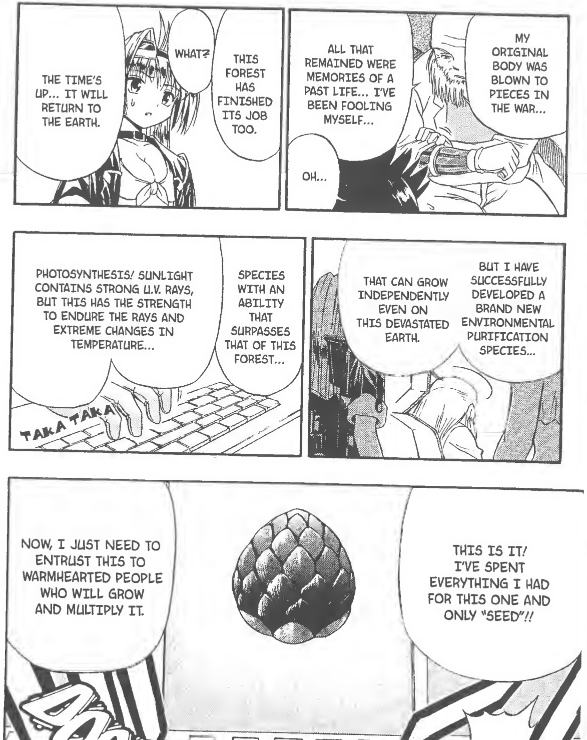
POP
THESE GUYS ARE SELF-SUPPORTED MACHINES THAT USE THEIR BULK TO PLOW THE EARTH WHILE SPRINKLING NURTURING GEL AND SEEDS.
A FOREST EVENTUALLY GROWS IN THEIR SEEDBED... THEY ALSO HAVE A SOPHISTICATED EXTERMINATION PROGRAM TO REPEL OUTSIDE INVADERS.
THAT WAS ONE SMART MOVE, TAKING COVER IN THE FOREST.
OH.
SINCE THEY WILL NOT HARM PLANTS.
OKAY, SO NOW WE KNOW WHAT THEY ARE... BUT WE WANNA GET OUTTA HERE! CAN YOU STOP THOSE BIG-ASS MOTHERS?
NO CAN DO. THEY ARE COMPLETELY SELF-SUSTAINED.
THEY ARE PROGRAMMED TO BUILD FORESTS INDEFINITELY.
I SAY GIVE UP AND START LIVING HERE. IT'S NOT AS BAD AS YOU MIGHT THINK.
YOUR EVEN WELCOME TO SETTLE DOWN HERE WITH ME.
OH... YOU...
SICK OLD BASTARD!! I SWEAR I'M GONNA TEAR DOWN THIS TOWER!!
SORRY, WE HAVE IMPORTANT BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO. IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN DO?
BUSINESS?

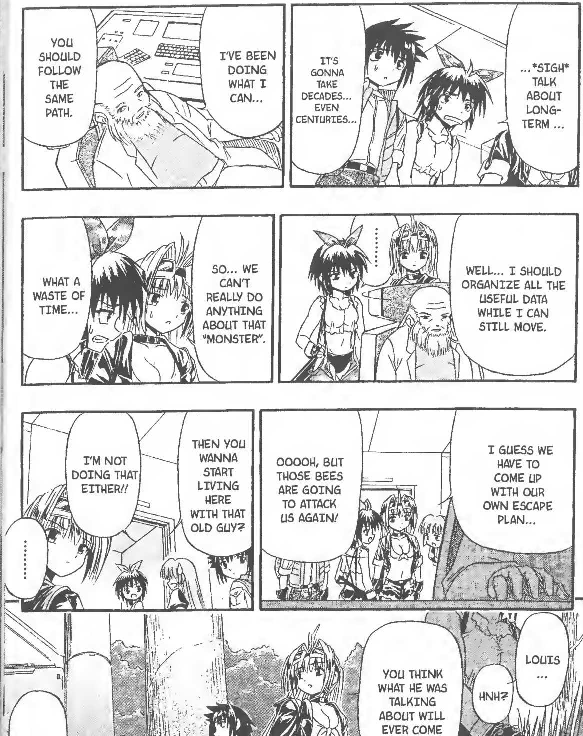


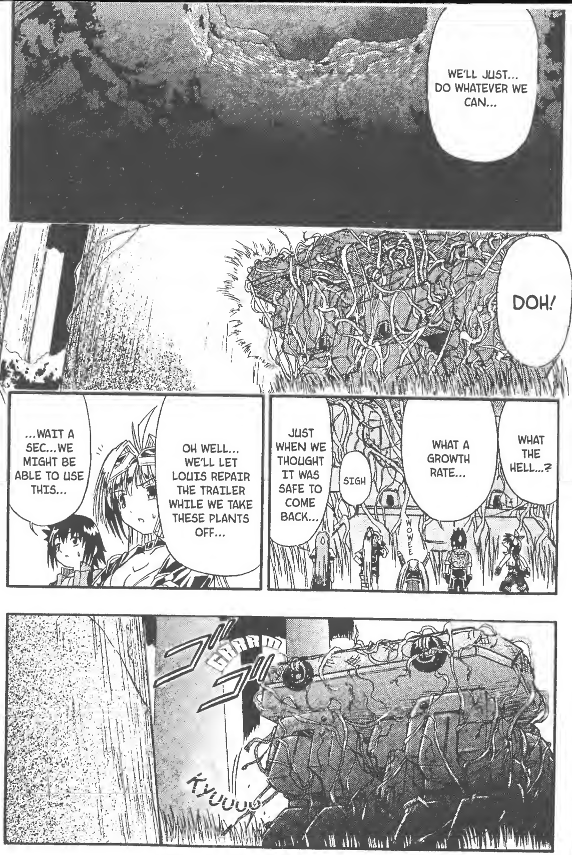
WE ARE TRYING TO GET TO THE Z.P.T. MAINFRAME.
SO... WE CAN'T STAY HERE FOR LONG...
OH...
Z.P.T. EH... LONG TIME SINCE I'VE HEARD THAT NAME.
SO YOU KNOW ABOUT Z.P.T.?
WELL, YES...
BUT WHAT'S A KID LIKE YOU GOING TO DO AT A PLACE LIKE THAT?
OUR TOWNS WERE ALL WIPED OUT BY Z.P.T.
I KNOW THERE ARE OTHER CITIES THAT ARE BEING WIPED OUT EVEN AS WE SPEAK.
AND WE WANT TO PUT AN END TO THAT.

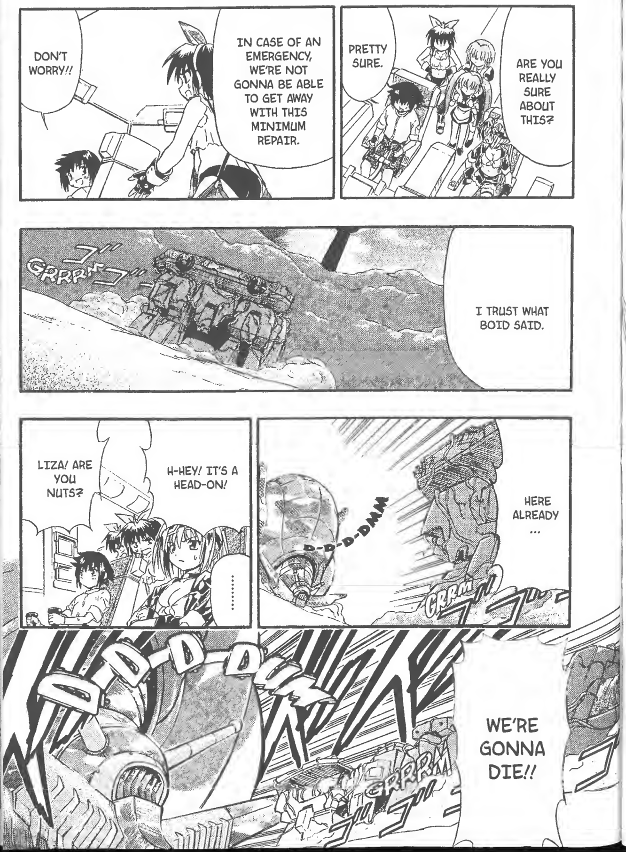

PURIFICATION OF EARTH IS NECESSARY, BUT NOT IN EXCHANGE FOR HUMAN LIVES.
NO. I CAN'T LET THAT GO ON.
HM... I'VE HEARD ABOUT Z.P.T.'S BIZARRE PURIFICATION PLAN.
I CAN SEE WHY YOU FEEL RESENTFUL BUT...
THAT AIN'T THE POINT!!
I'M PISSED OFF WITH THE PEOPLE WHO MADE THE WORLD LIKE THIS, BUT WHAT'S DONE'S ALREADY DONE!!
SOMEONE HAS TO RIGHT THE WRONG!!
THAT'S ALL!!
THERE'S NO GUARANTEE WE CAN DO IT...
WE ARE NOT EVEN SURE IF WE CAN GET TO Z.P.T.
BUT WE'VE GOT TO GIVE IT A TRY.
THOUGH I AM RISKING MY LIFE, I WOULDN'T HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY.
MAMET'S WITH YOU ALL THE WAY!!

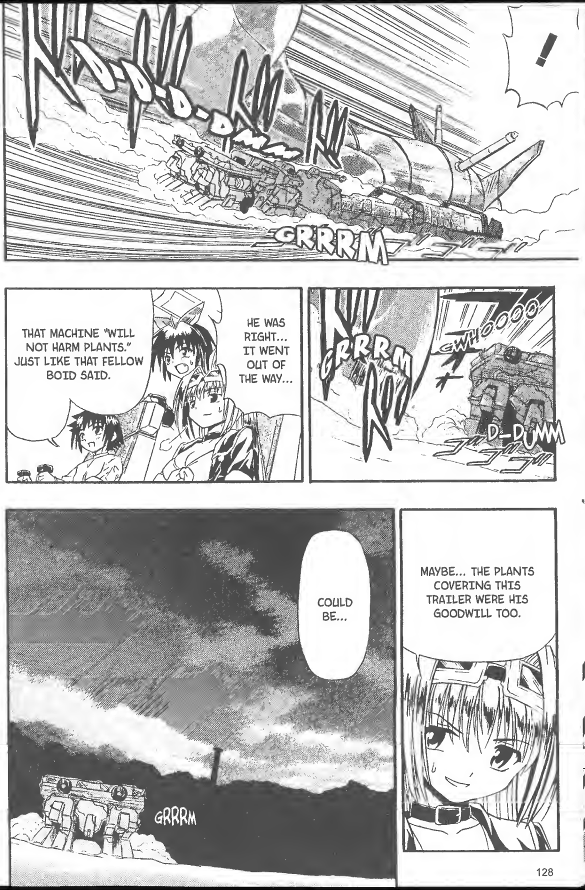

WHAT WAS THAT, LOUIS? A LINE LIKE THAT IS WAY TOO COOL FOR YOU.
LOOK WHO'S TALKING, WOOTY...
THAT'S RIGHT ...
YOU GUYS ARE ALWAYS TOO SHY TO BE SINCERE LIKE THAT.
THIS CERTAINLY IS A RARE OCCASION.
MAYBE THEY'RE STILL INTOXICATED
HA HA... YOU'VE GOT THE RIGHT SPIRIT.
I MYSELF HAVE BEEN TRYING TO BECOME PART OF THE PURIFICATION OF EARTH, BUT...
MY BODY PASSED ITS WARRANTY PERIOD LONG AGO...
SO IT'S GREAT TO SEE KIDS LIKE YOU WITH SUCH ENTHUSIASM.
WARRANTY PERIOD?

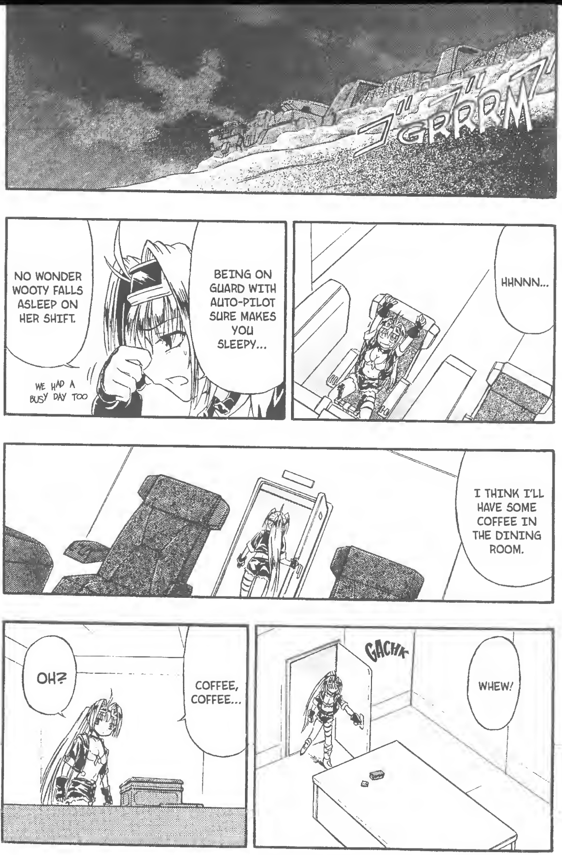

MY ORIGINAL BODY WAS BLOWN TO PIECES IN THE WAR...
ALL THAT REMAINED WERE MEMORIES OF A PAST LIFE... I'VE BEEN FOOLING MYSELF...
OH...
THIS FOREST HAS FINISHED ITS JOB TOO.
WHAT?
THE TIME'S UP... IT WILL RETURN TO THE EARTH.
BUT I HAVE SUCCESSFULLY DEVELOPED A BRAND NEW ENVIRONMENTAL PURIFICATION SPECIES...
THAT CAN GROW INDEPENDENTLY EVEN ON THIS DEVASTATED EARTH.
SPECIES WITH AN ABILITY THAT SURPASSES THAT OF THIS FOREST...
PHOTOSYNTHESIS! SUNLIGHT CONTAINS STRONG U.V. RAYS, BUT THIS HAS THE STRENGTH TO ENDURE THE RAYS AND EXTREME CHANGES IN TEMPERATURE...
TAKA TAKA
THIS IS IT! I'VE SPENT EVERYTHING I HAD FOR THIS ONE AND ONLY "SEED"!!
NOW, I JUST NEED TO ENTRUST THIS TO WARMHEARTED PEOPLE WHO WILL GROW AND MULTIPLY IT.
!
DOOOOM!

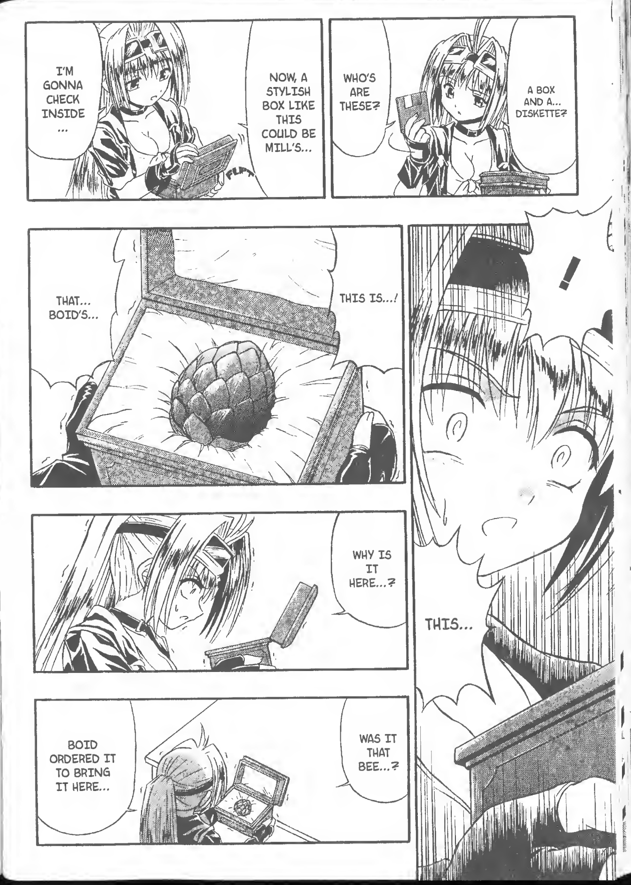

...*SIGH* TALK ABOUT LONG-TERM ...
IT'S GONNA TAKE DECADES... EVEN CENTURIES...
I'VE BEEN DOING WHAT I CAN...
YOU SHOULD FOLLOW THE SAME PATH.
WELL... I SHOULD ORGANIZE ALL THE USEFUL DATA WHILE I CAN STILL MOVE.
......
SO... WE CAN'T REALLY DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT "MONSTER".
WHAT A WASTE OF TIME...
I GUESS WE HAVE TO COME UP WITH OUR OWN ESCAPE PLAN...
OOOOH, BUT THOSE BEES ARE GOING TO ATTACK US AGAIN!
THEN YOU WANNA START LIVING HERE WITH THAT OLD GUY?
I'M NOT DOING THAT EITHER!!
....
LOUIS ...
HNH?
YOU THINK WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT WILL EVER COME TRUE?
DUNNO ...

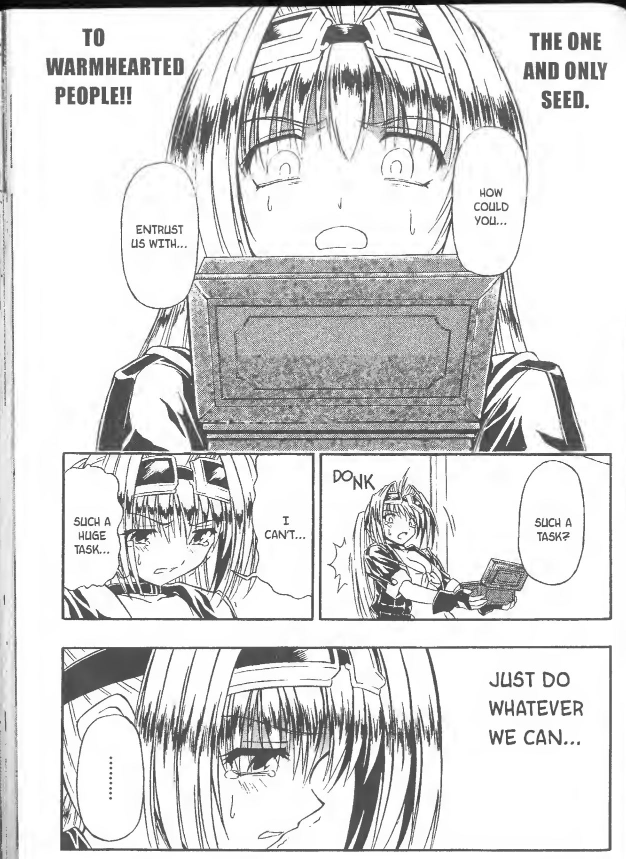

WE'LL JUST... DO WHATEVER WE CAN...
DOH!
WHAT THE HELL...?
WHAT A GROWTH RATE...
SIGH
NOWEE
JUST WHEN WE THOUGHT IT WAS SAFE TO COME BACK...
OH WELL... WE'LL LET LOUIS REPAIR THE TRAILER WHILE WE TAKE THESE PLANTS OFF...
...WAIT A SEC...WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO USE THIS...
GRRRM
KYUUUU

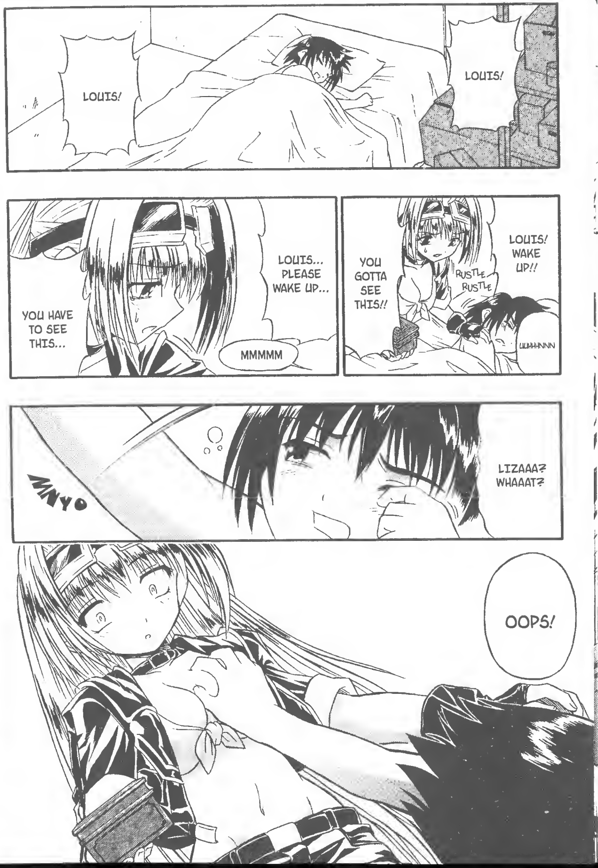

ARE YOU REALLY SURE ABOUT THIS?
PRETTY SURE.
IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, WE'RE NOT GONNA BE ABLE TO GET AWAY WITH THIS MINIMUM REPAIR.
DON'T WORRY!!
I TRUST WHAT BOID SAID.
GRRRM
HERE ALREADY...
D-D-D-DMM
GRRM
......
H-HEY! IT'S A HEAD-ON!
LIZA! ARE YOU NUTS?
WE'RE GONNA DIE!!
D-D-D-DUM
GRRRM

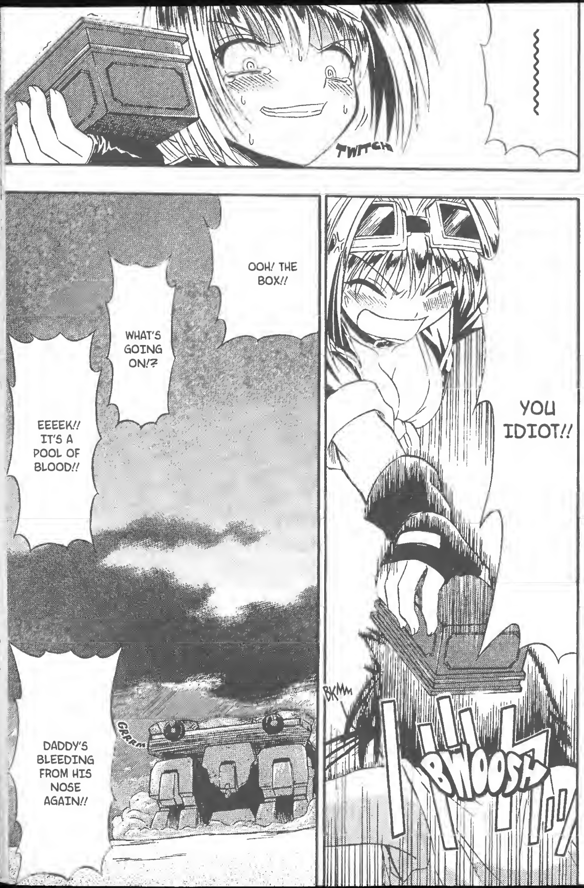

!
D-D-D-DMM
GRRRM
GRRRM
GWHOOOO
D-DUMM
HE WAS RIGHT... IT WENT OUT OF THE WAY...
THAT MACHINE "WILL NOT HARM PLANTS." JUST LIKE THAT FELLOW BOID SAID.
MAYBE... THE PLANTS COVERING THIS TRAILER WERE HIS GOODWILL TOO.
COULD BE...
GRRRM

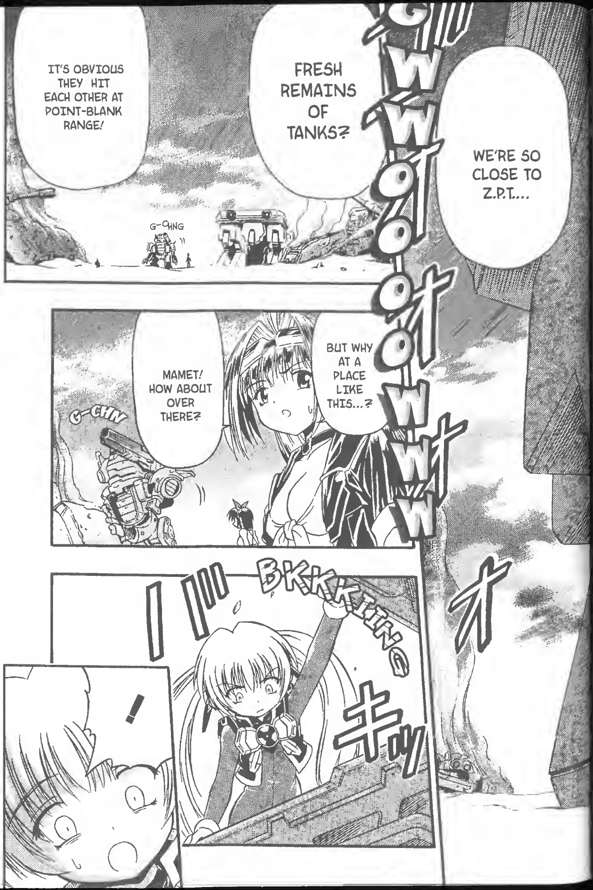

GRRRM
HHNNN...
BEING ON GUARD WITH AUTO-PILOT SURE MAKES YOU SLEEPY...
NO WONDER WOOTY FALLS ASLEEP ON HER SHIFT.
WE HAD A BUSY DAY TOO
I THINK I'LL HAVE SOME COFFEE IN THE DINING ROOM.
WHEW!
GACHK
COFFEE, COFFEE...
OH?


A BOX AND A... DISKETTE?
WHO'S ARE THESE?
NOW, A STYLISH BOX LIKE THIS COULD BE MILL'S...
I'M GONNA CHECK INSIDE ...
FLIP
!
THIS...
THIS IS...!
THAT... BOID'S...
WHY IS IT HERE...?
WAS IT THAT BEE...?
BOID ORDERED IT TO BRING IT HERE...


THE ONE AND ONLY SEED.
HOW COULD YOU...
ENTRUST US WITH...
TO WARMHEARTED PEOPLE!!
SUCH A TASK?
DONK
I CAN'T...
SUCH A HUGE TASK...
JUST DO WHATEVER WE CAN...
....


LOUIS!
LOUIS!
LOUIS! WAKE UP!!
YOU GOTTA SEE THIS!!
RUSTLE RUSTLE
UUHHHNNN
LOUIS... PLEASE WAKE UP...
YOU HAVE TO SEE THIS...
MMMMM
LIZAAA? WHAAAT?
MNYO
OOPS!


TWITCH
YOU IDIOT!!
BKMM
BWOOSH
OOH! THE BOX!!
WHAT'S GOING ON!?
EEEEK!! IT'S A POOL OF BLOOD!!
DADDY'S BLEEDING FROM HIS NOSE AGAIN!!
GRRRM

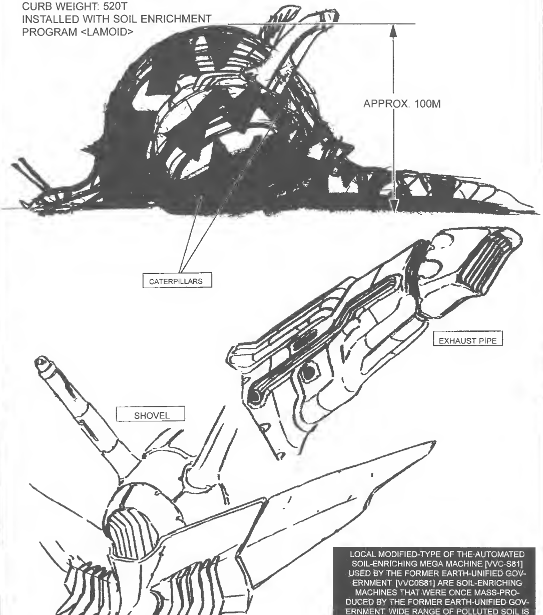

WE'RE SO CLOSE TO Z.P.T....
FRESH REMAINS OF TANKS?
IT'S OBVIOUS THEY HIT EACH OTHER AT POINT-BLANK RANGE!
G-CHNG
GWWWOOOOOWWWW
BUT WHY AT A PLACE LIKE THIS...?
MAMET! HOW ABOUT OVER THERE?
G-CHN
BKKKIIING
キッ
!

SETTING DATA FILE:9

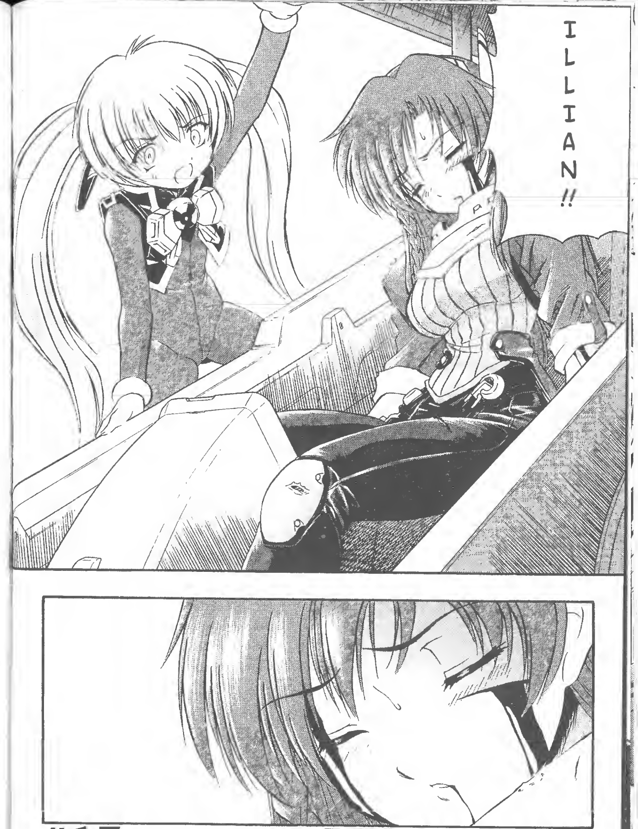
SNAIL

DATA

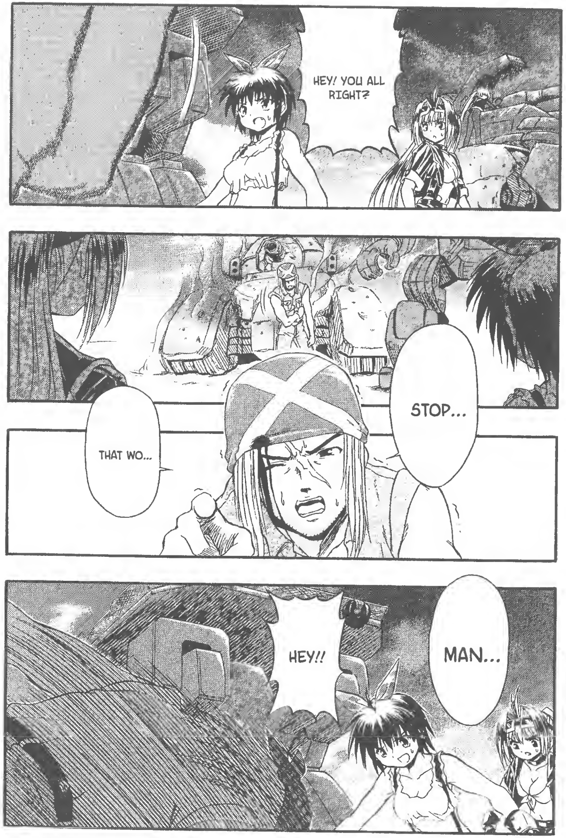
OVERALL BODY LENGTH: 201M
CURB WEIGHT: 520T
INSTALLED WITH SOIL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM <LAMOID>

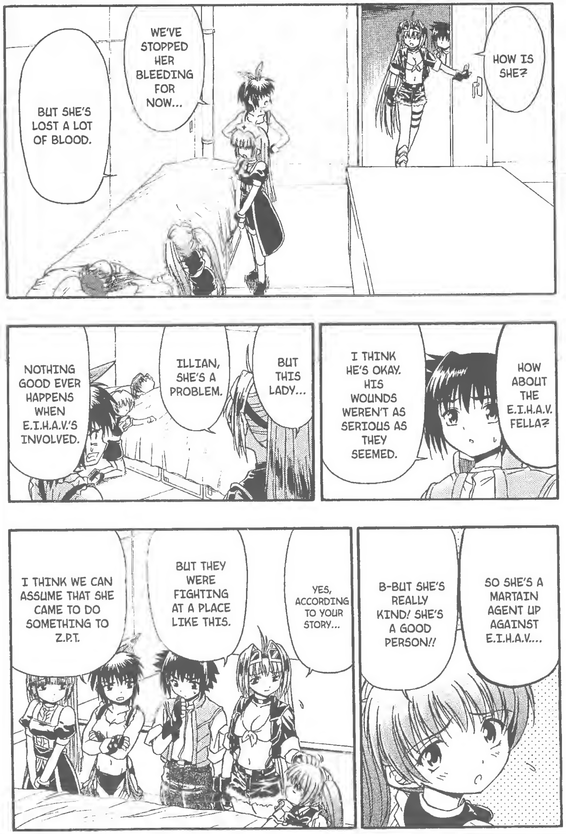

APPROX. 100M
CATERPILLARS
EXHAUST PIPE
SHOVEL

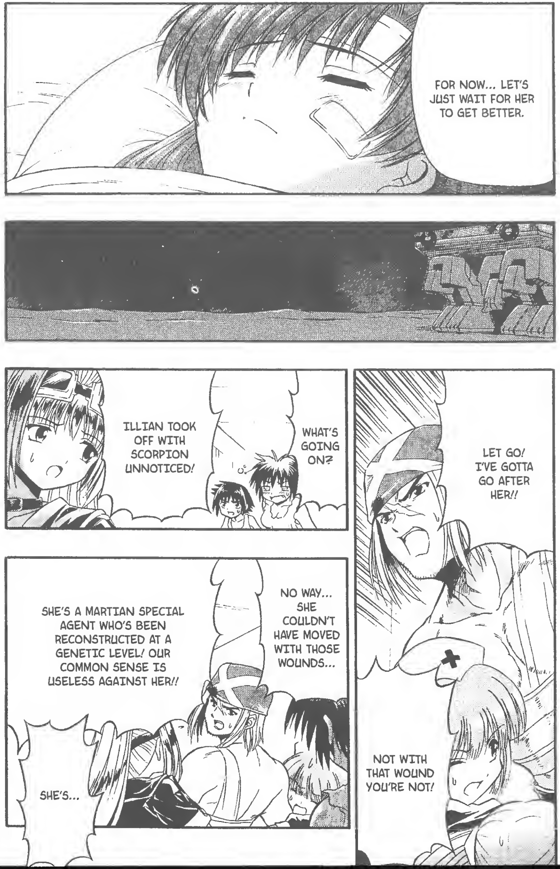
LOCAL MODIFIED-TYPE OF THE AUTOMATED SOIL-ENRICHING MEGA MACHINE [VVC-S81] USED BY THE FORMER EARTH-UNIFIED GOVERNMENT. [VVC0S81] ARE SOIL-ENRICHING MACHINES THAT WERE ONCE MASS-PRODUCED BY THE FORMER EARTH-UNIFIED GOVERNMENT. WIDE RANGE OF POLLUTED SOIL IS COLLECTED, CIRCULATED IN THE INTERNAL DRUM PLANT, PURIFIED AND THEN RELEASED. OPERATES ON A BIO-MASS HEAT ENGINE

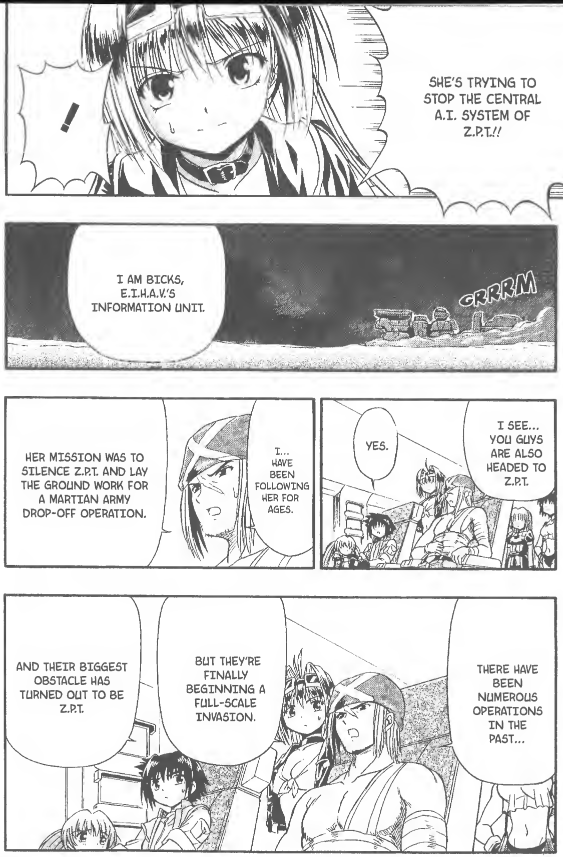


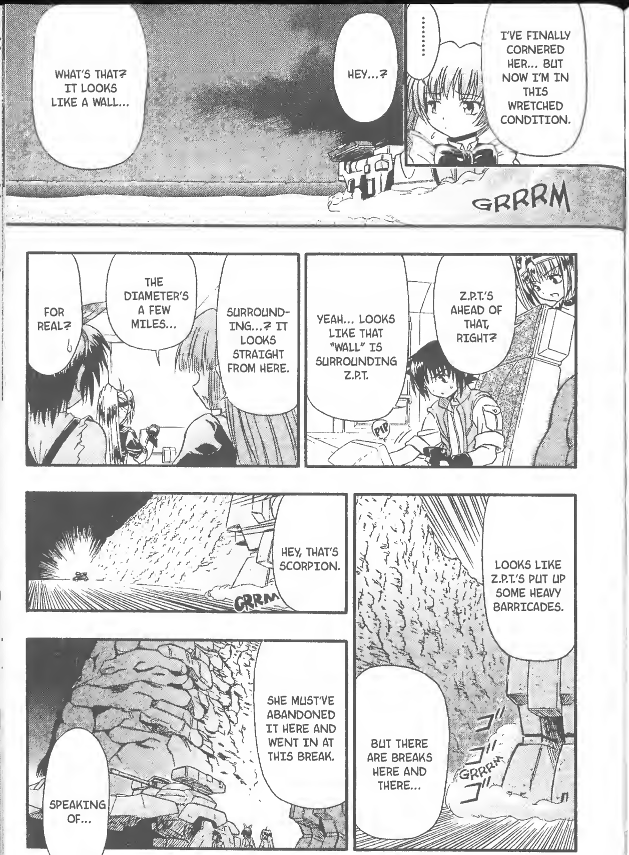
#17 DESTINATION

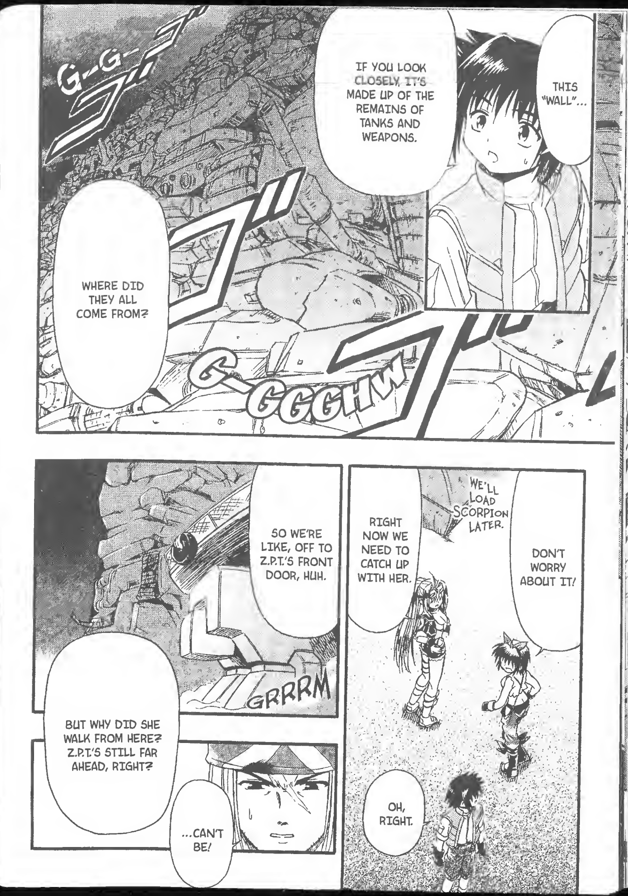

HEY! YOU ALL RIGHT?
STOP...
THAT WO...
MAN...
HEY!!

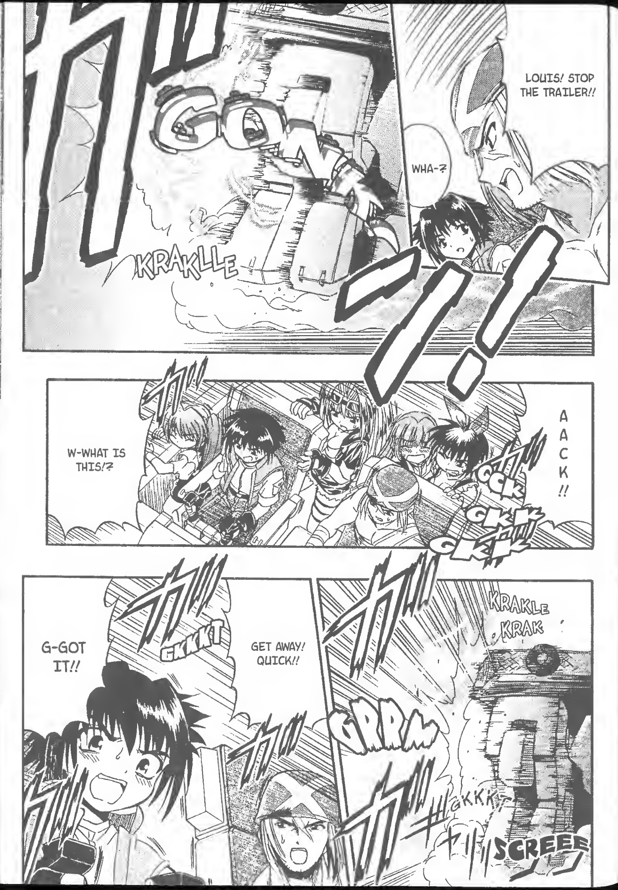

HOW IS SHE?
WE'VE STOPPED HER BLEEDING FOR NOW...
BUT SHE'S LOST A LOT OF BLOOD.
HOW ABOUT THE E.I.H.A.V. FELLA?
I THINK HE'S OKAY. HIS WOUNDS WEREN'T AS SERIOUS AS THEY SEEMED.
BUT THIS LADY...
ILLIAN, SHE'S A PROBLEM.
NOTHING GOOD EVER HAPPENS WHEN E.I.H.A.V.'S INVOLVED.
SO SHE'S A MARTAIN AGENT UP AGAINST E.I.H.A.V....
B-BUT SHE'S REALLY KIND! SHE'S A GOOD PERSON!!
YES, ACCORDING TO YOUR STORY...
BUT THEY WERE FIGHTING AT A PLACE LIKE THIS.
I THINK WE CAN ASSUME THAT SHE CAME TO DO SOMETHING TO Z.P.T.

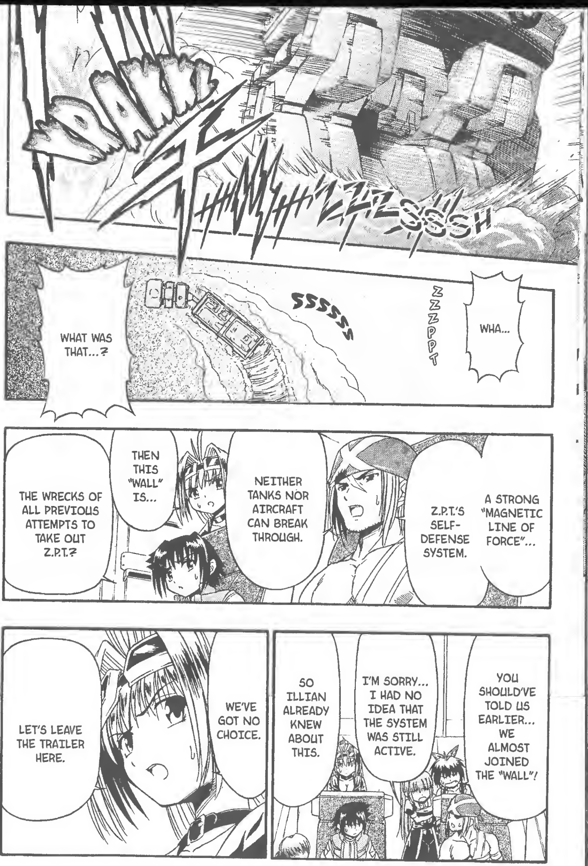

FOR NOW... LET'S JUST WAIT FOR HER TO GET BETTER.
LET GO! I'VE GOTTA GO AFTER HER!!
NOT WITH THAT WOUND YOU'RE NOT!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
ILLIAN TOOK OFF WITH SCORPION UNNOTICED!
NO WAY... SHE COULDN'T HAVE MOVED WITH THOSE WOUNDS...
SHE'S A MARTIAN SPECIAL AGENT WHO'S BEEN RECONSTRUCTED AT A GENETIC LEVEL! OUR COMMON SENSE IS USELESS AGAINST HER!!
SHE'S...

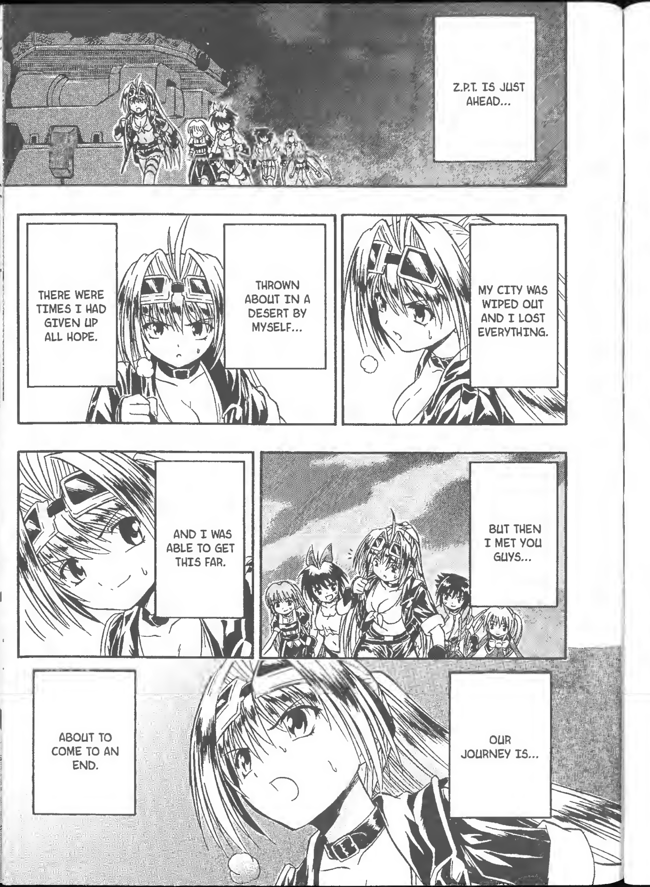

SHE'S TRYING TO STOP THE CENTRAL A.I. SYSTEM OF Z.P.T.!!
!
I AM BICKS, E.I.H.A.V.'S INFORMATION UNIT.
GRRRM
I SEE... YOU GUYS ARE ALSO HEADED TO Z.P.T.
YES.
I... HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING HER FOR AGES.
HER MISSION WAS TO SILENCE Z.P.T. AND LAY THE GROUND WORK FOR A MARTIAN ARMY DROP-OFF OPERATION.
THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS OPERATIONS IN THE PAST...
BUT THEY'RE FINALLY BEGINNING A FULL-SCALE INVASION.
AND THEIR BIGGEST OBSTACLE HAS TURNED OUT TO BE Z.P.T.

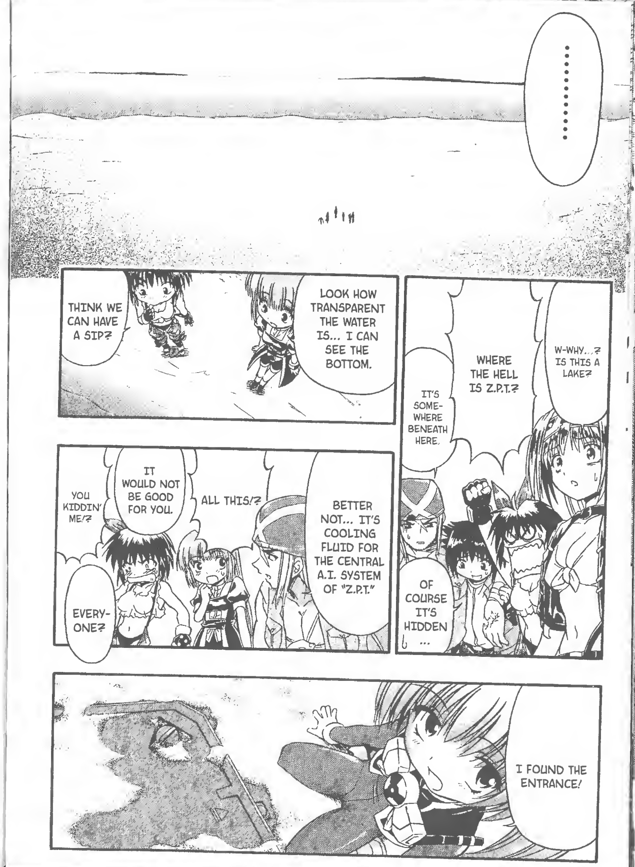

I'VE FINALLY CORNERED HER... BUT NOW I'M IN THIS WRETCHED CONDITION.
......
HEY...?
WHAT'S THAT? IT LOOKS LIKE A WALL...
GRRRM
Z.P.T.'S AHEAD OF THAT, RIGHT?
YEAH... LOOKS LIKE THAT "WALL" IS SURROUNDING Z.P.T.
PIP
SURROUNDING...? IT LOOKS STRAIGHT FROM HERE.
THE DIAMETER'S A FEW MILES...
FOR REAL?
LOOKS LIKE Z.P.T.'S PUT UP SOME HEAVY BARRICADES.
BUT THERE ARE BREAKS HERE AND THERE...
GRRRM
HEY, THAT'S SCORPION.
GRRM
SHE MUST'VE ABANDONED IT HERE AND WENT IN AT THIS BREAK.
SPEAKING OF...

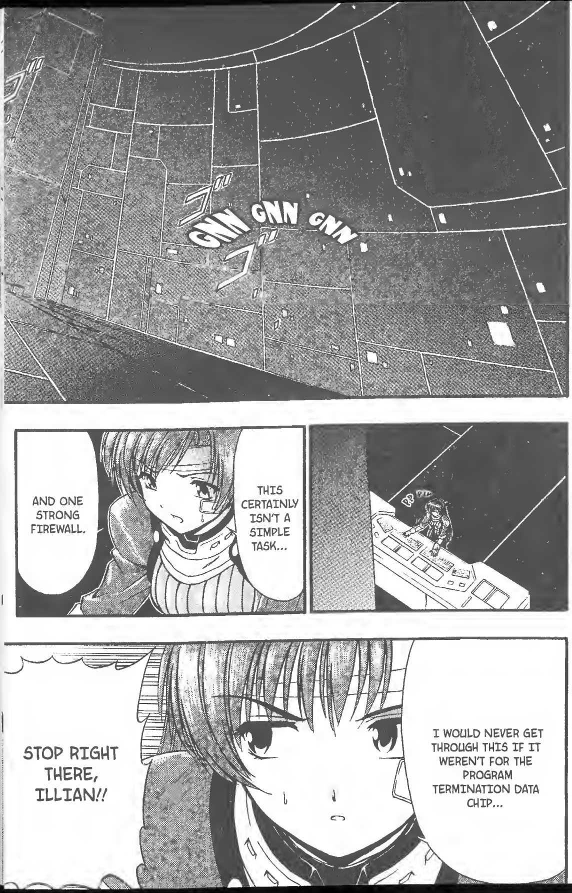

THIS "WALL"...
IF YOU LOOK CLOSELY, IT'S MADE UP OF THE REMAINS OF TANKS AND WEAPONS.
G-G-
WHERE DID THEY ALL COME FROM?
G-GGGHW
WE'LL LOAD SCORPION LATER.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
RIGHT NOW WE NEED TO CATCH UP WITH HER.
OH, RIGHT.
SO WE'RE LIKE, OFF TO Z.P.T.'S FRONT DOOR, HUH.
GRRRM
BUT WHY DID SHE WALK FROM HERE? Z.P.T.'S STILL FAR AHEAD, RIGHT?
...CAN'T BE!

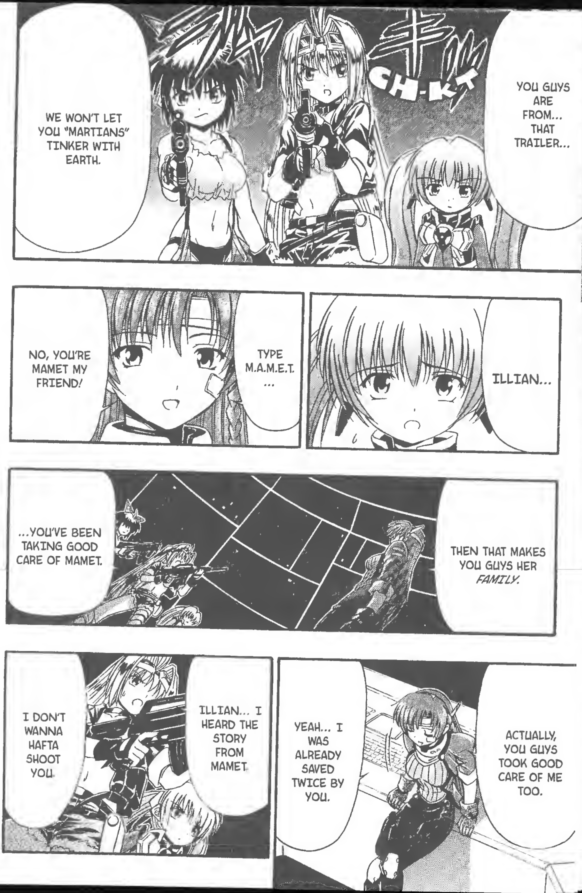

LOUIS! STOP THE TRAILER!!
WHA-?
GON
KRAKLLE
AACK!!
W-WHAT IS THIS!?
GCK
GKK
GKK
KRAKLE KRAK
GRRM
GKKK
SCREEE
GET AWAY! QUICK!!
GKKKT
G-GOT IT!!

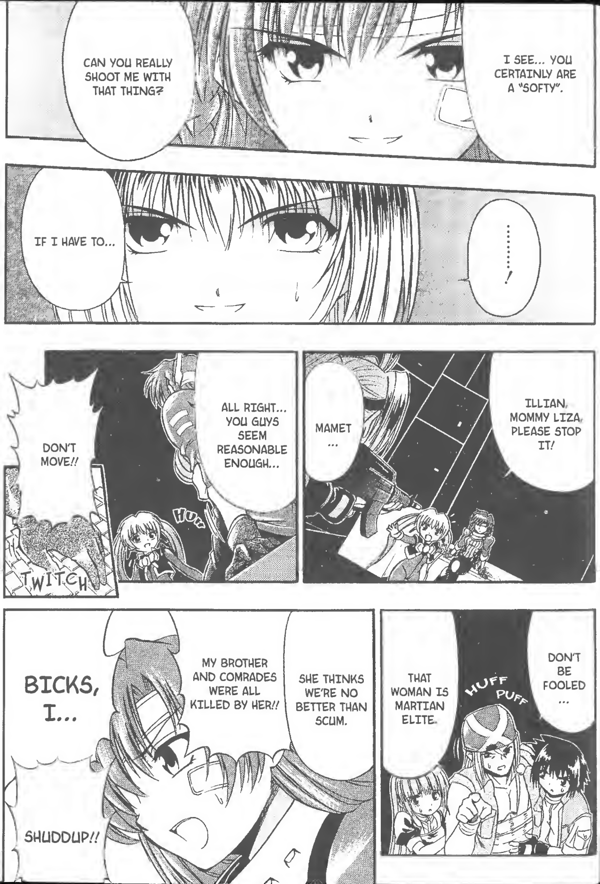

KRAKK
THMM
ZZZZSSSH
WHA...
ZZZPPT
SSSSSS
WHAT WAS THAT...?
A STRONG "MAGNETIC LINE OF FORCE"...
Z.P.T.'S SELF-DEFENSE SYSTEM.
NEITHER TANKS NOR AIRCRAFT CAN BREAK THROUGH.
THEN THIS "WALL" IS...
THE WRECKS OF ALL PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO TAKE OUT Z.P.T.?
YOU SHOULD'VE TOLD US EARLIER... WE ALMOST JOINED THE "WALL"!
I'M SORRY... I HAD NO IDEA THAT THE SYSTEM WAS STILL ACTIVE.
SO ILLIAN ALREADY KNEW ABOUT THIS.
WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE.
LET'S LEAVE THE TRAILER HERE.

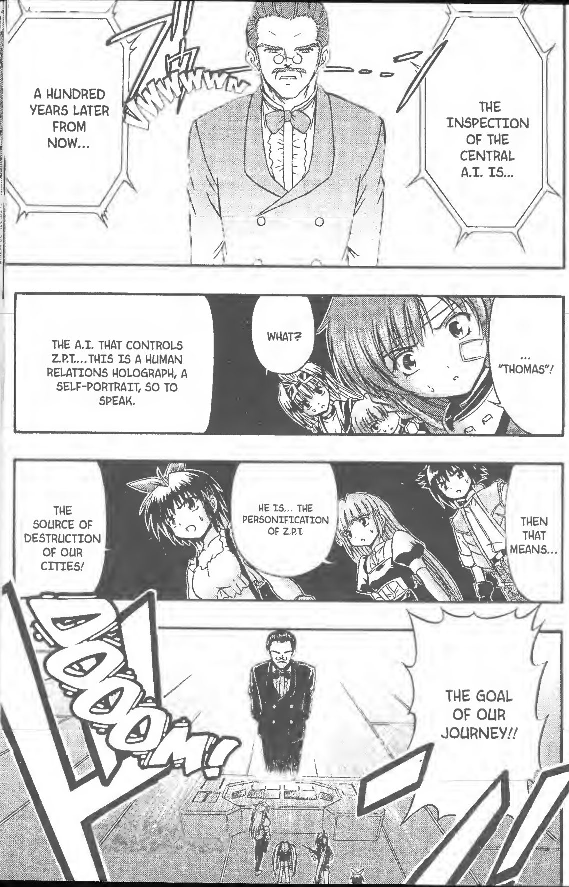

Z.P.T. IS JUST AHEAD...
MY CITY WAS WIPED OUT AND I LOST EVERYTHING.
THROWN ABOUT IN A DESERT BY MYSELF...
THERE WERE TIMES I HAD GIVEN UP ALL HOPE.
BUT THEN I MET YOU GUYS...
AND I WAS ABLE TO GET THIS FAR.
OUR JOURNEY IS...
ABOUT TO COME TO AN END.

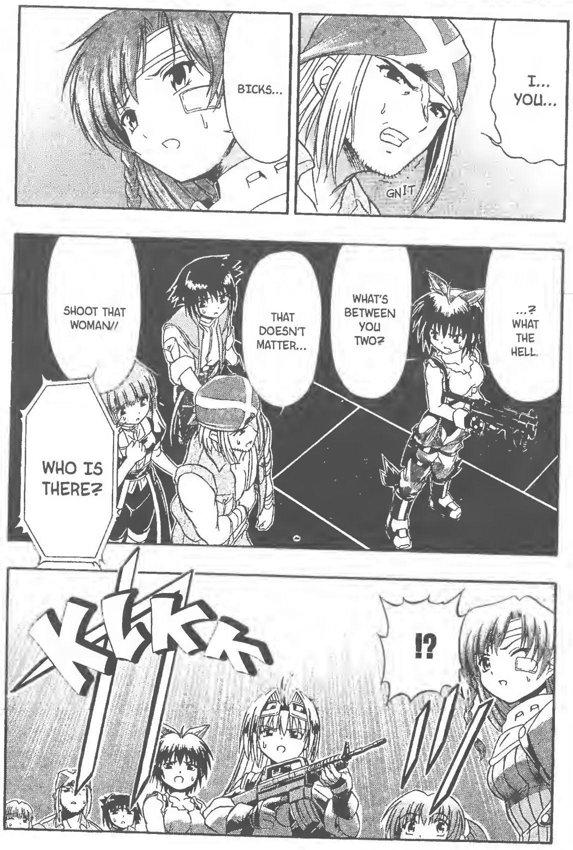

……
W-WHY...? IS THIS A LAKE?
WHERE THE HELL IS Z.P.T.?
IT'S SOMEWHERE BENEATH HERE.
LOOK HOW TRANSPARENT THE WATER IS... I CAN SEE THE BOTTOM.
THINK WE CAN HAVE A SIP?
BETTER NOT... IT'S COOLING FLUID FOR THE CENTRAL A.I. SYSTEM OF "Z.P.T."
ALL THIS!?
IT WOULD NOT BE GOOD FOR YOU.
YOU KIDDIN' ME!?
OF COURSE IT'S HIDDEN...
EVERYONE?
I FOUND THE ENTRANCE!

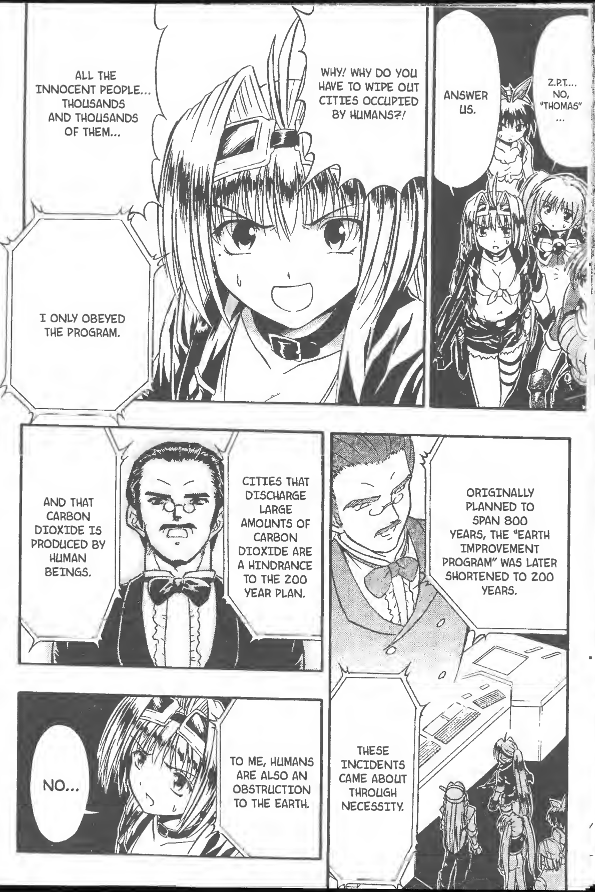

ゴ"
ゴ"
GNN GNN GNN
ゴ"
THIS CERTAINLY ISN'T A SIMPLE TASK...
AND ONE STRONG FIREWALL.
I WOULD NEVER GET THROUGH THIS IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE PROGRAM TERMINATION DATA CHIP...
STOP RIGHT THERE, ILLIAN!!

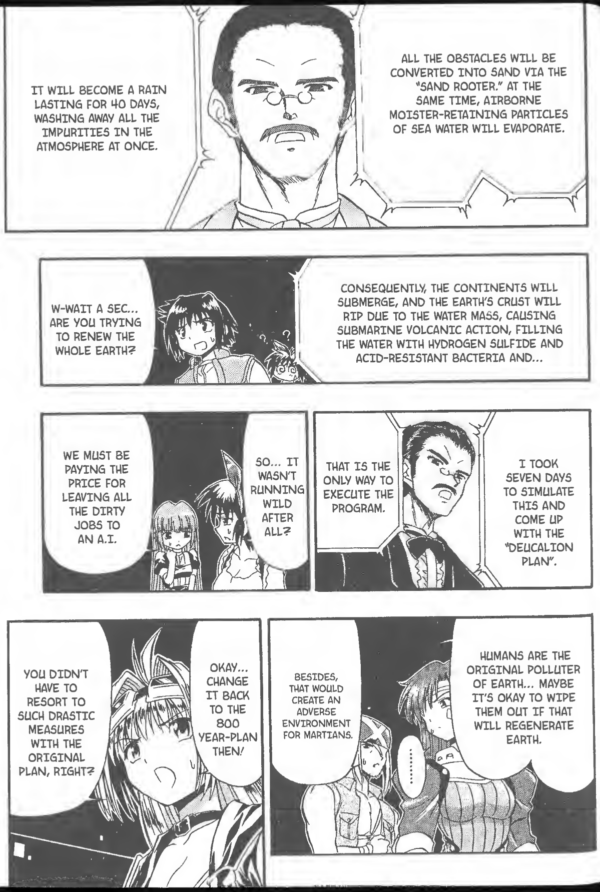

YOU GUYS ARE FROM... THAT TRAILER...
CH-KT
WE WON'T LET YOU "MARTIANS" TINKER WITH EARTH.
ILLIAN...
TYPE M.A.M.E.T. ...
NO, YOU'RE MAMET MY FRIEND!
THEN THAT MAKES YOU GUYS HER *FAMILY*.
...YOU'VE BEEN TAKING GOOD CARE OF MAMET.
ACTUALLY, YOU GUYS TOOK GOOD CARE OF ME TOO.
YEAH... I WAS ALREADY SAVED TWICE BY YOU.
ILLIAN... I HEARD THE STORY FROM MAMET.
I DON'T WANNA HAFTA SHOOT YOU.

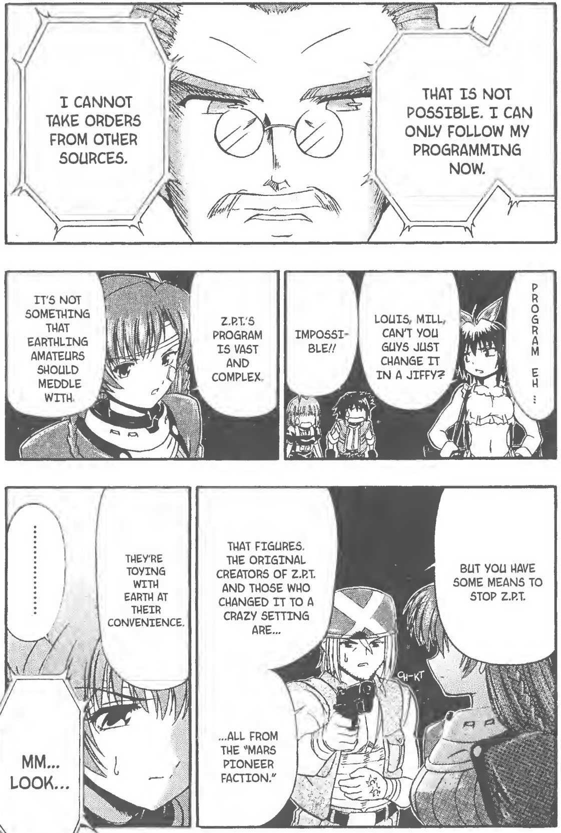

I SEE... YOU CERTAINLY ARE A "SOFTY".
CAN YOU REALLY SHOOT ME WITH THAT THING?
.........!
IF I HAVE TO...
ILLIAN, MOMMY LIZA, PLEASE STOP IT!
MAMET ...
ALL RIGHT... YOU GUYS SEEM REASONABLE ENOUGH...
HUH
DON'T MOVE!!
TWITCH
DON'T BE FOOLED ...
THAT WOMAN IS MARTIAN ELITE.
HUFF PUFF
SHE THINKS WE'RE NO BETTER THAN SCUM.
MY BROTHER AND COMRADES WERE ALL KILLED BY HER!!
BICKS, I...
SHUDDUP!!

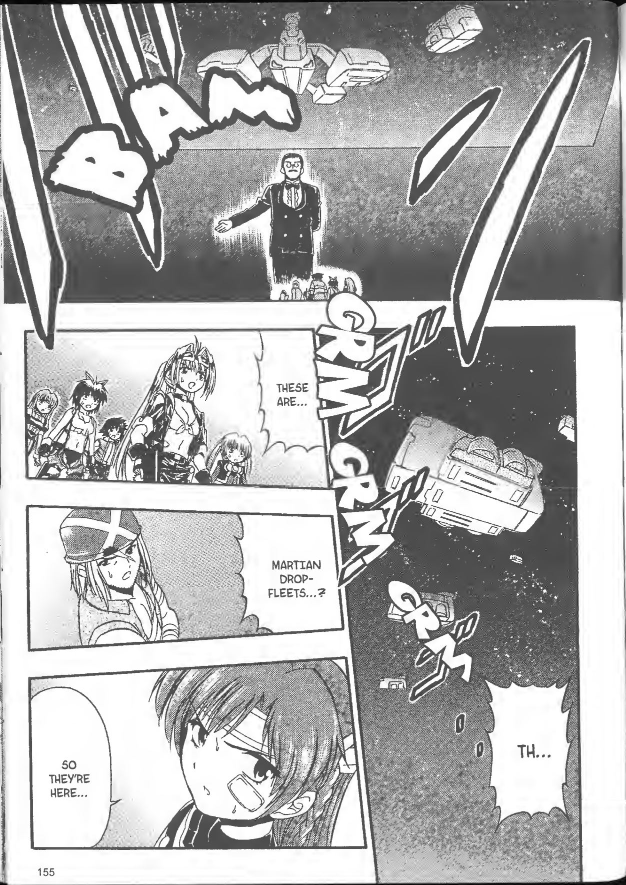

THE INSPECTION OF THE CENTRAL A.I. IS...
VWWWWN
A HUNDRED YEARS LATER FROM NOW...
... "THOMAS"!
WHAT?
THE A.I. THAT CONTROLS Z.P.T.... THIS IS A HUMAN RELATIONS HOLOGRAPH, A SELF-PORTRAIT, SO TO SPEAK.
THEN THAT MEANS...
HE IS... THE PERSONIFICATION OF Z.P.T.
THE SOURCE OF DESTRUCTION OF OUR CITIES!
THE GOAL OF OUR JOURNEY!!
DOOOOM!

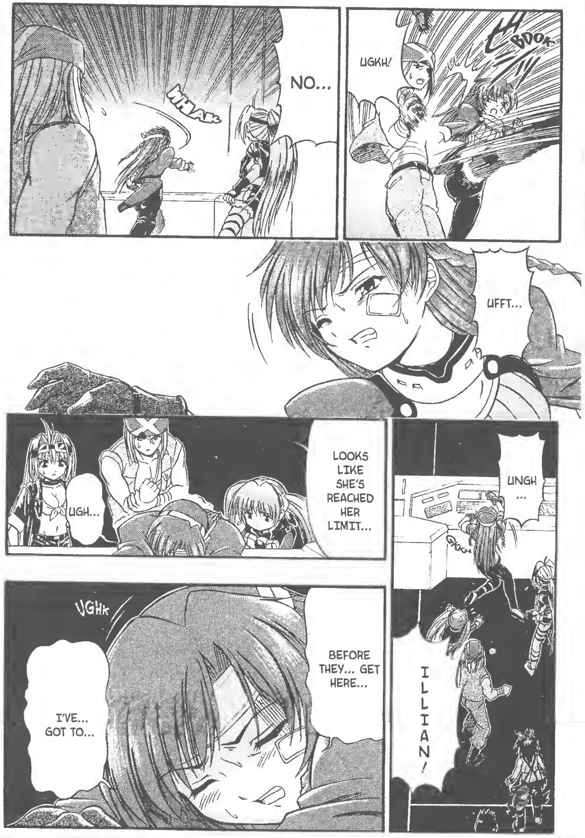

I... YOU...
GNIT
BICKS...
...? WHAT THE HELL.
WHAT'S BETWEEN YOU TWO?
THAT DOESN'T MATTER...
SHOOT THAT WOMAN!!
WHO IS THERE?
!?
KLIKK

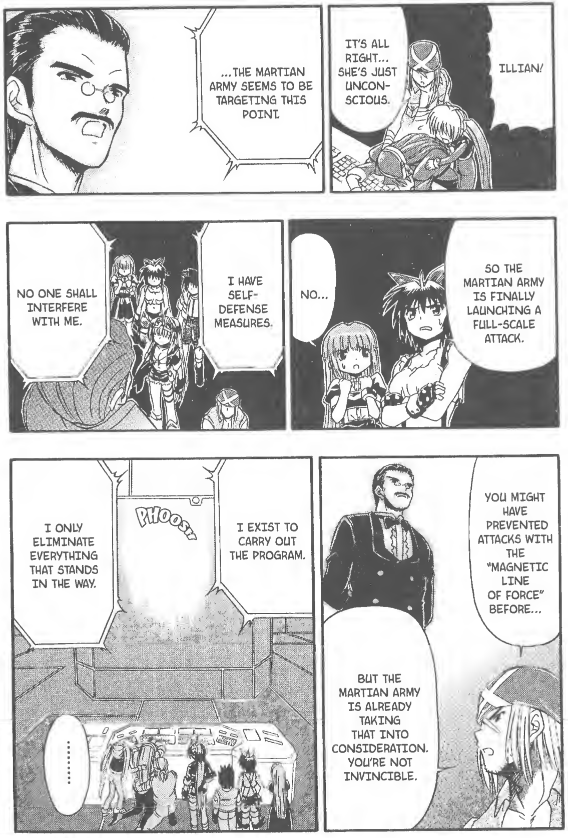

Z.P.T... NO, "THOMAS" ...
ANSWER US.
WHY! WHY DO YOU HAVE TO WIPE OUT CITIES OCCUPIED BY HUMANS?!
ALL THE INNOCENT PEOPLE... THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF THEM...
I ONLY OBEYED THE PROGRAM.
ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO SPAN 800 YEARS, THE "EARTH IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM" WAS LATER SHORTENED TO 200 YEARS.
CITIES THAT DISCHARGE LARGE AMOUNTS OF CARBON DIOXIDE ARE A HINDRANCE TO THE 200 YEAR PLAN.
AND THAT CARBON DIOXIDE IS PRODUCED BY HUMAN BEINGS.
THESE INCIDENTS CAME ABOUT THROUGH NECESSITY.
TO ME, HUMANS ARE ALSO AN OBSTRUCTION TO THE EARTH.
NO...

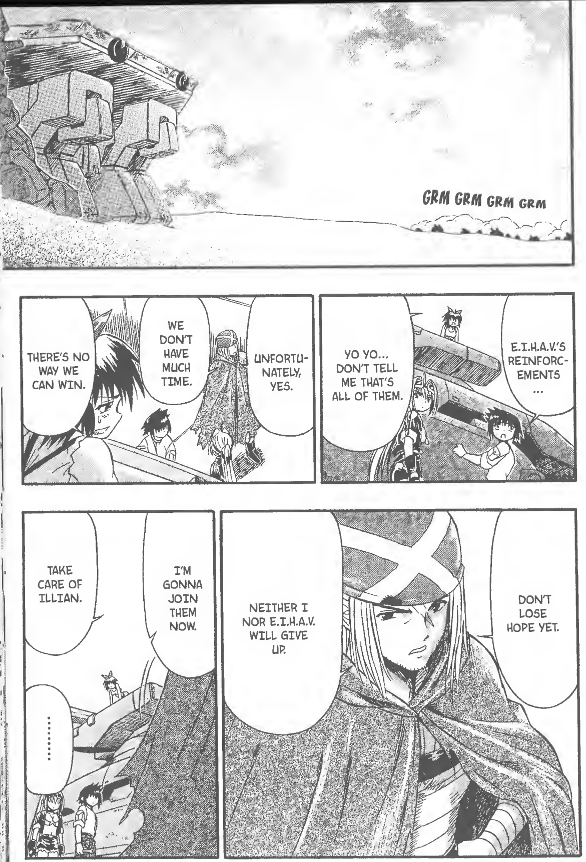

ALL THE OBSTACLES WILL BE CONVERTED INTO SAND VIA THE "SAND ROOTER." AT THE SAME TIME, AIRBORNE MOISTER-RETAINING PARTICLES OF SEA WATER WILL EVAPORATE.
IT WILL BECOME A RAIN LASTING FOR 40 DAYS, WASHING AWAY ALL THE IMPURITIES IN THE ATMOSPHERE AT ONCE.
CONSEQUENTLY, THE CONTINENTS WILL SUBMERGE, AND THE EARTH'S CRUST WILL RIP DUE TO THE WATER MASS, CAUSING SUBMARINE VOLCANIC ACTION, FILLING THE WATER WITH HYDROGEN SULFIDE AND ACID-RESISTANT BACTERIA AND...
W-WAIT A SEC... ARE YOU TRYING TO RENEW THE WHOLE EARTH?
? ?
I TOOK SEVEN DAYS TO SIMULATE THIS AND COME UP WITH THE "DEUCALION PLAN".
THAT IS THE ONLY WAY TO EXECUTE THE PROGRAM.
SO... IT WASN'T RUNNING WILD AFTER ALL?
WE MUST BE PAYING THE PRICE FOR LEAVING ALL THE DIRTY JOBS TO AN A.I.
HUMANS ARE THE ORIGINAL POLLUTER OF EARTH... MAYBE IT'S OKAY TO WIPE THEM OUT IF THAT WILL REGENERATE EARTH.
BESIDES, THAT WOULD CREATE AN ADVERSE ENVIRONMENT FOR MARTIANS.
......
OKAY... CHANGE IT BACK TO THE 800 YEAR-PLAN THEN!
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO RESORT TO SUCH DRASTIC MEASURES WITH THE ORIGINAL PLAN, RIGHT?

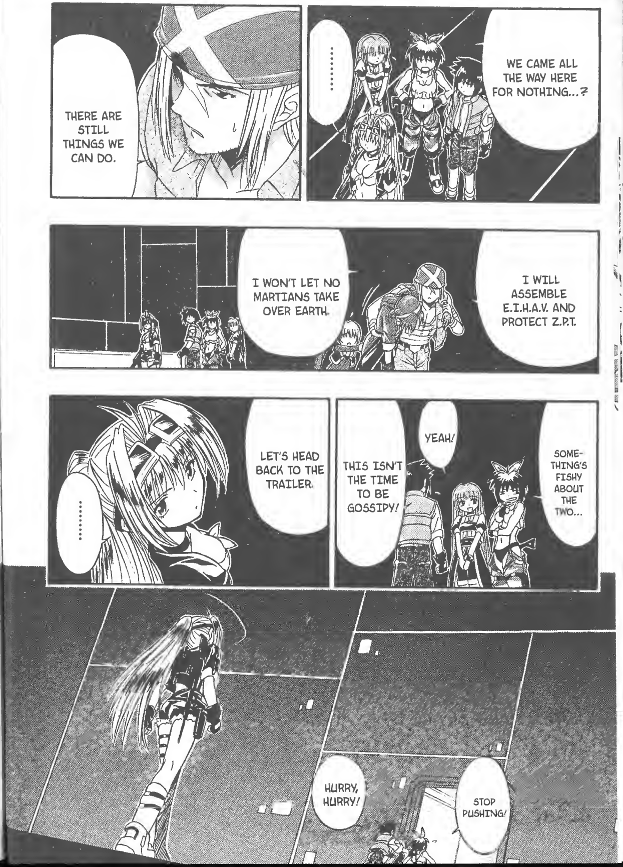

THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE. I CAN ONLY FOLLOW MY PROGRAMMING NOW.
I CANNOT TAKE ORDERS FROM OTHER SOURCES.
PROGRAM EH...
LOUIS, MILL, CAN'T YOU GUYS JUST CHANGE IT IN A JIFFY?
IMPOSSIBLE!!
Z.P.T.'S PROGRAM IS VAST AND COMPLEX.
IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT EARTHLING AMATEURS SHOULD MEDDLE WITH.
BUT YOU HAVE SOME MEANS TO STOP Z.P.T.
CH-KT
THAT FIGURES. THE ORIGINAL CREATORS OF Z.P.T. AND THOSE WHO CHANGED IT TO A CRAZY SETTING ARE...
...ALL FROM THE "MARS PIONEER FACTION."
THEY'RE TOYING WITH EARTH AT THEIR CONVENIENCE.
......
MM... LOOK...

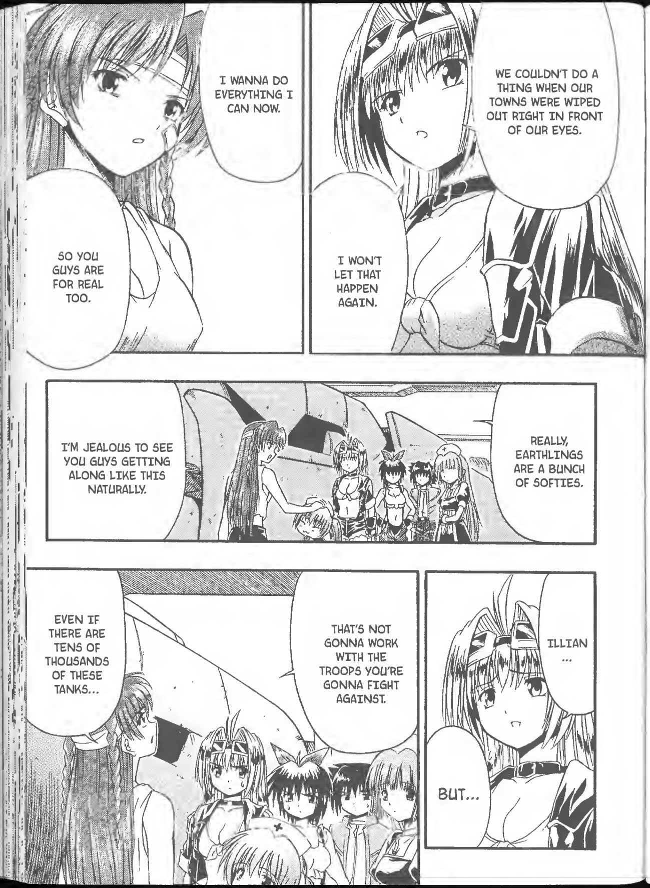

BAM
GRM GRM GRM GRM
THESE ARE...
MARTIAN DROP-FLEETS...?
TH...
SO THEY'RE HERE...

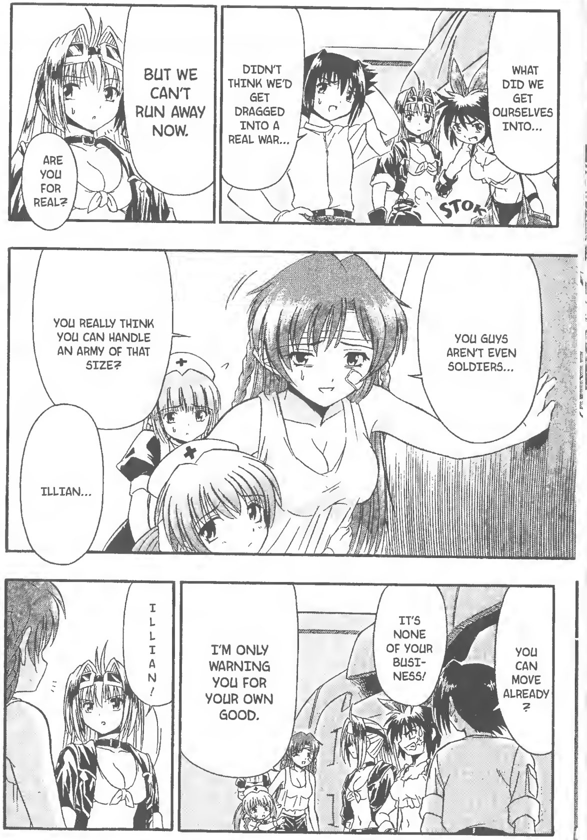

UGKH!
BDOK
NO...
WHAK
UFFT...
UNGH...
GKK
ILLIAN!
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S REACHED HER LIMIT...
UGH...
BEFORE THEY... GET HERE...
UGHK
I'VE... GOT TO...

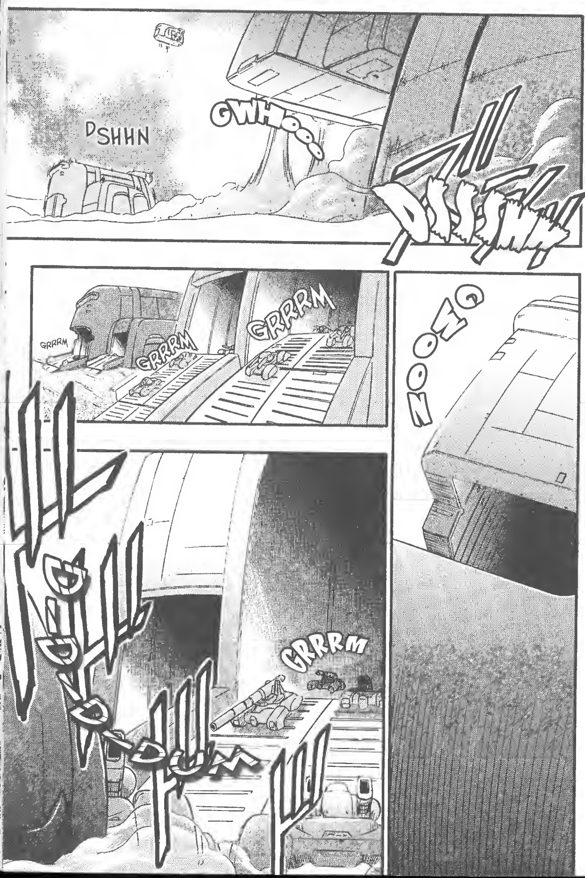

ILLIAN!
IT'S ALL RIGHT... SHE'S JUST UNCONSCIOUS.
...THE MARTIAN ARMY SEEMS TO BE TARGETING THIS POINT.
SO THE MARTIAN ARMY IS FINALLY LAUNCHING A FULL-SCALE ATTACK.
NO...
I HAVE SELF-DEFENSE MEASURES.
NO ONE SHALL INTERFERE WITH ME.
YOU MIGHT HAVE PREVENTED ATTACKS WITH THE "MAGNETIC LINE OF FORCE" BEFORE...
BUT THE MARTIAN ARMY IS ALREADY TAKING THAT INTO CONSIDERATION. YOU'RE NOT INVINCIBLE.
I EXIST TO CARRY OUT THE PROGRAM.
PHOOSH
I ONLY ELIMINATE EVERYTHING THAT STANDS IN THE WAY.
....

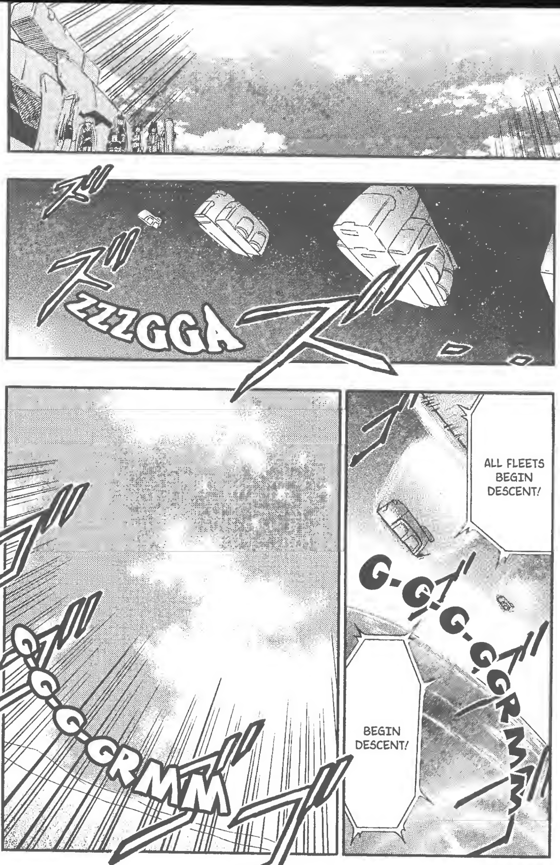

GRM GRM GRM GRM
E.I.H.A.V.'S REINFORCEMENTS ...
YO YO... DON'T TELL ME THAT'S ALL OF THEM.
UNFORTUNATELY, YES.
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.
THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN WIN.
DON'T LOSE HOPE YET.
NEITHER I NOR E.I.H.A.V. WILL GIVE UP.
I'M GONNA JOIN THEM NOW.
TAKE CARE OF ILLIAN.
....

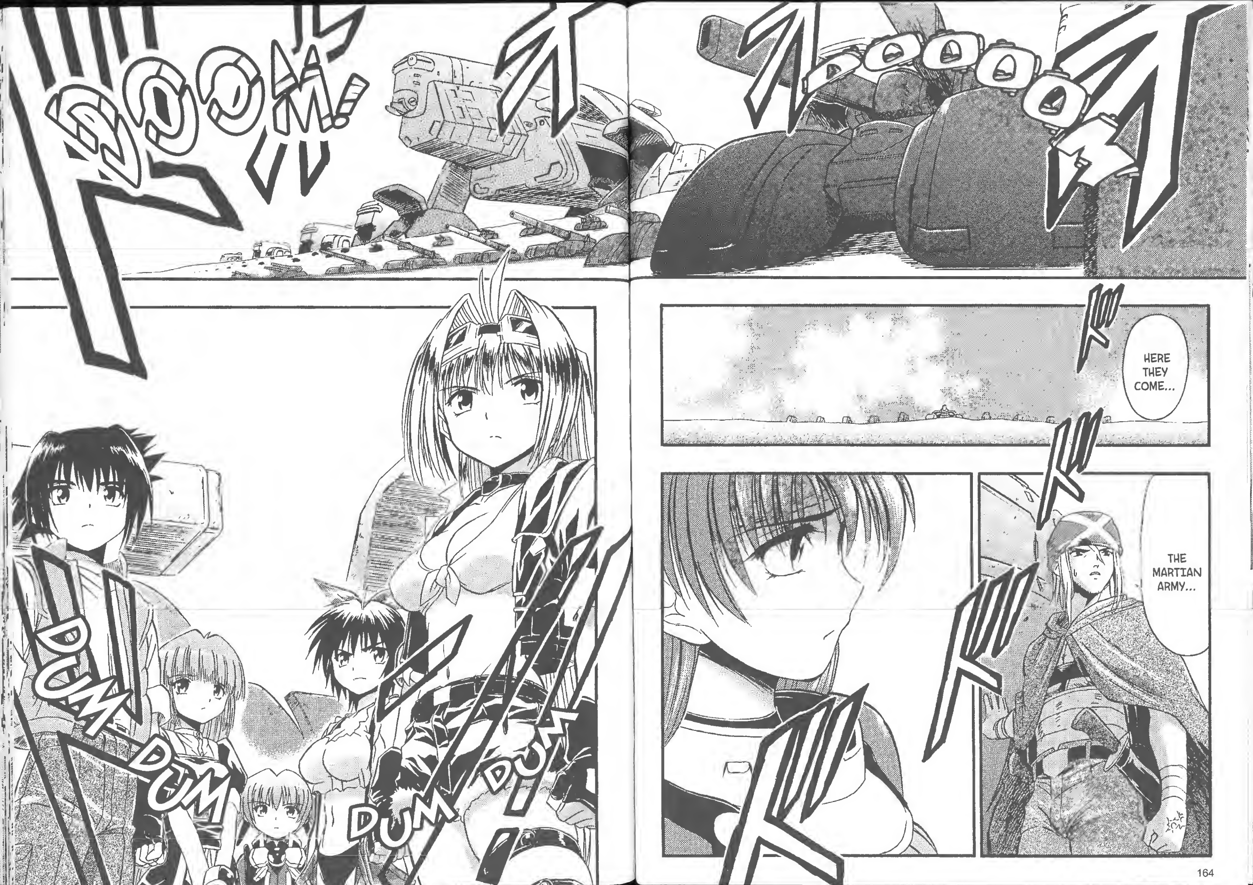

WE CAME ALL THE WAY HERE FOR NOTHING...?
....
THERE ARE STILL THINGS WE CAN DO.
I WILL ASSEMBLE E.I.H.A.V. AND PROTECT Z.P.T.
I WON'T LET NO MARTIANS TAKE OVER EARTH.
SOMETHING'S FISHY ABOUT THE TWO...
YEAH!
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE GOSSIPY!
LET'S HEAD BACK TO THE TRAILER.
....
STOP PUSHING!
HURRY, HURRY!

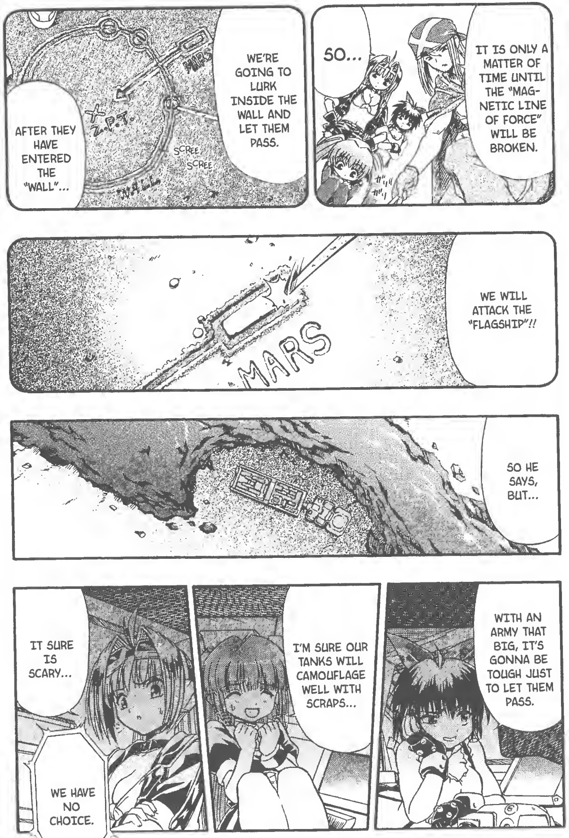

I WANNA DO EVERYTHING I CAN NOW.
SO YOU GUYS ARE FOR REAL TOO.
WE COULDN'T DO A THING WHEN OUR TOWNS WERE WIPED OUT RIGHT IN FRONT OF OUR EYES.
I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN AGAIN.
I'M JEALOUS TO SEE YOU GUYS GETTING ALONG LIKE THIS NATURALLY.
REALLY, EARTHLINGS ARE A BUNCH OF SOFTIES.
EVEN IF THERE ARE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF THESE TANKS...
THAT'S NOT GONNA WORK WITH THE TROOPS YOU'RE GONNA FIGHT AGAINST.
ILLIAN...
BUT...


BUT WE CAN'T RUN AWAY NOW.
ARE YOU FOR REAL?
DIDN'T THINK WE'D GET DRAGGED INTO A REAL WAR...
WHAT DID WE GET OURSELVES INTO...
STOK
YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN HANDLE AN ARMY OF THAT SIZE?
ILLIAN...
YOU GUYS AREN'T EVEN SOLDIERS...
ILLIAN!
I'M ONLY WARNING YOU FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
YOU CAN MOVE ALREADY?

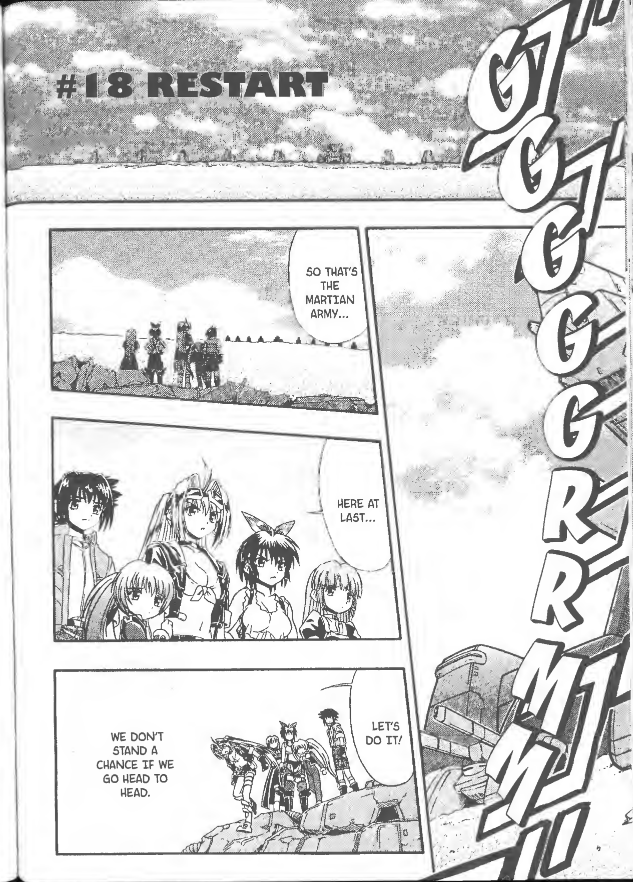

DSSSHH
GWHOOO
DSHHN
GRRRM
GRRRM
GRRRM
GOOOON
D-D-D-DUM
GRRRM

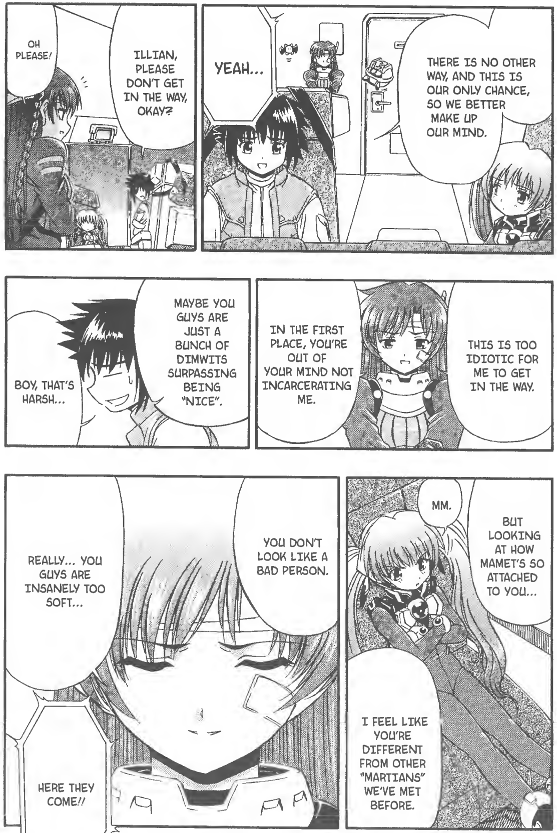

ZZZGGA
ALL FLEETS BEGIN DESCENT!
G-G-G-GGRMM
BEGIN DESCENT!
G-G-G-GRMM

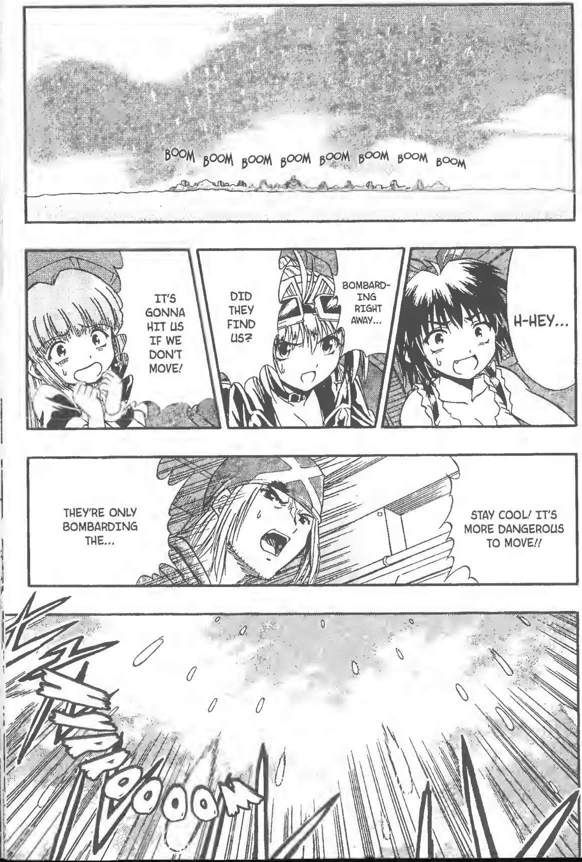

BOOOM!
HERE THEY COME...
THE MARTIAN ARMY...
DUM DUM DUM
DUM DUM

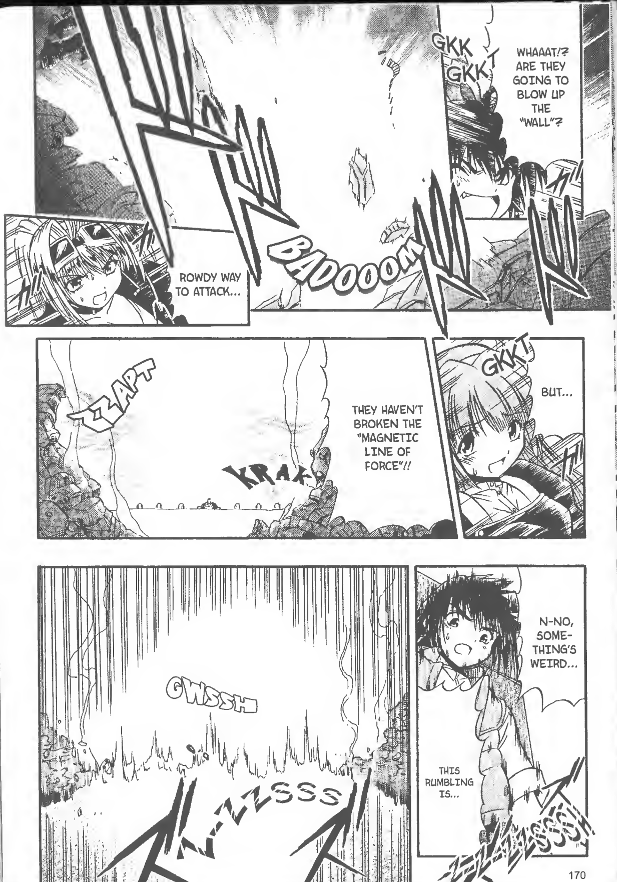

SO...
IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL THE "MAGNETIC LINE OF FORCE" WILL BE BROKEN.
WE'RE GOING TO LURK INSIDE THE WALL AND LET THEM PASS.
AFTER THEY HAVE ENTERED THE "WALL"...
MARS
Z.P.T.
SCREE
SCREE
WALL
WE WILL ATTACK THE "FLAGSHIP"!!
MARS
SO HE SAYS, BUT...
WITH AN ARMY THAT BIG, IT'S GONNA BE TOUGH JUST TO LET THEM PASS.
I'M SURE OUR TANKS WILL CAMOUFLAGE WELL WITH SCRAPS...
IT SURE IS SCARY...
WE HAVE NO CHOICE.

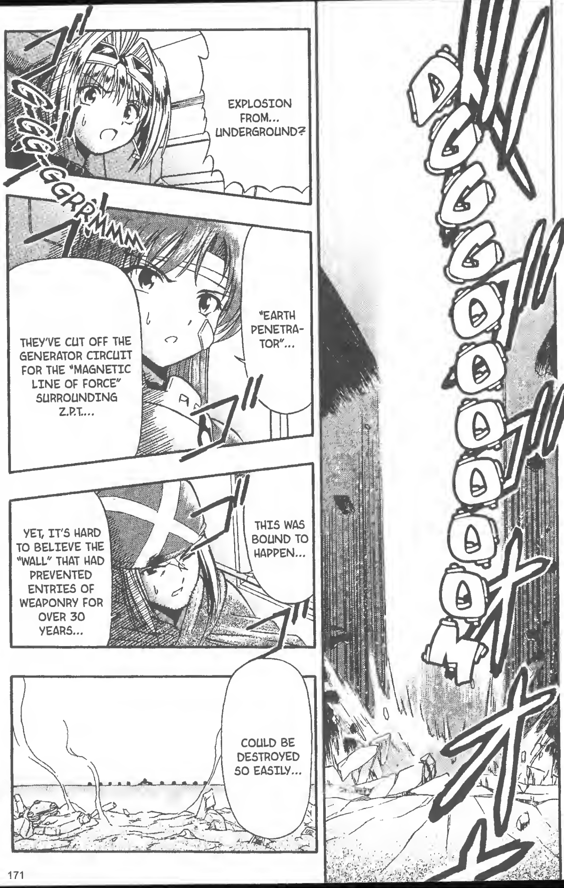
#18 RESTART

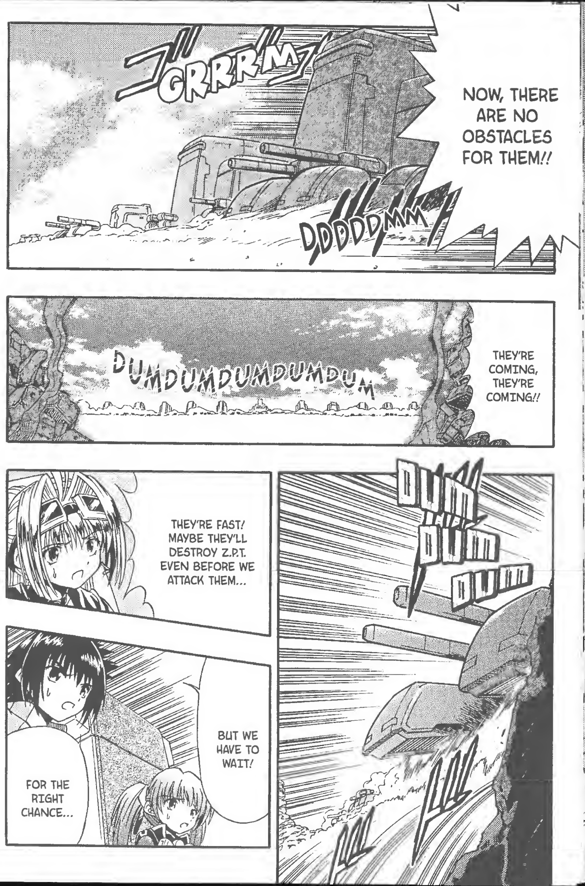

GGGGGGRRRMMMM
SO THAT'S THE MARTIAN ARMY...
HERE AT LAST...
LET'S DO IT!
WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE IF WE GO HEAD TO HEAD.

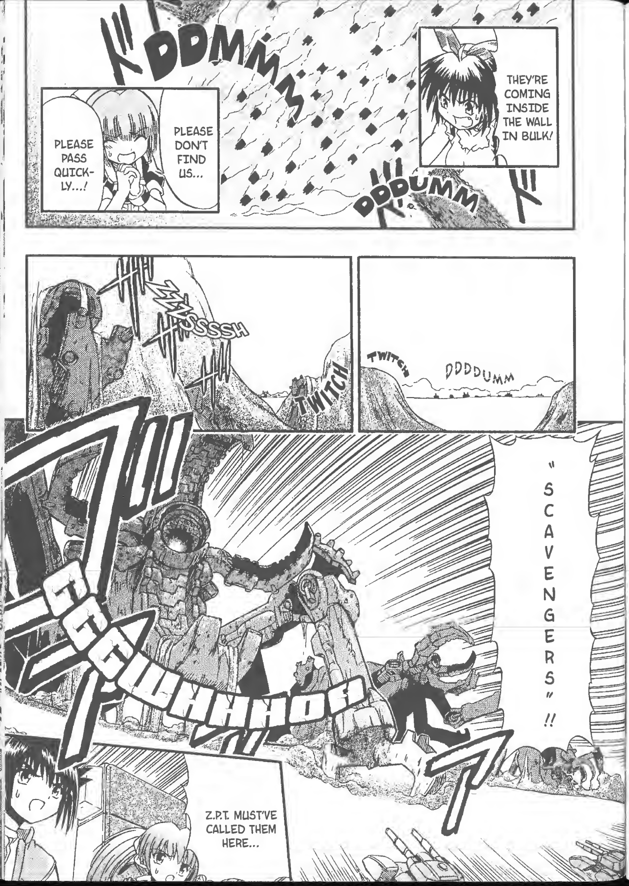

THERE IS NO OTHER WAY, AND THIS IS OUR ONLY CHANCE, SO WE BETTER MAKE UP OUR MIND.
YEAH...
ILLIAN, PLEASE DON'T GET IN THE WAY, OKAY?
OH PLEASE!
THIS IS TOO IDIOTIC FOR ME TO GET IN THE WAY.
IN THE FIRST PLACE, YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND NOT INCARCERATING ME.
MAYBE YOU GUYS ARE JUST A BUNCH OF DIMWITS SURPASSING BEING "NICE".
BOY, THAT'S HARSH...
MM.
BUT LOOKING AT HOW MAMET'S SO ATTACHED TO YOU...
I FEEL LIKE YOU'RE DIFFERENT FROM OTHER "MARTIANS" WE'VE MET BEFORE.
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A BAD PERSON.
REALLY... YOU GUYS ARE INSANELY TOO SOFT...
HERE THEY COME!!

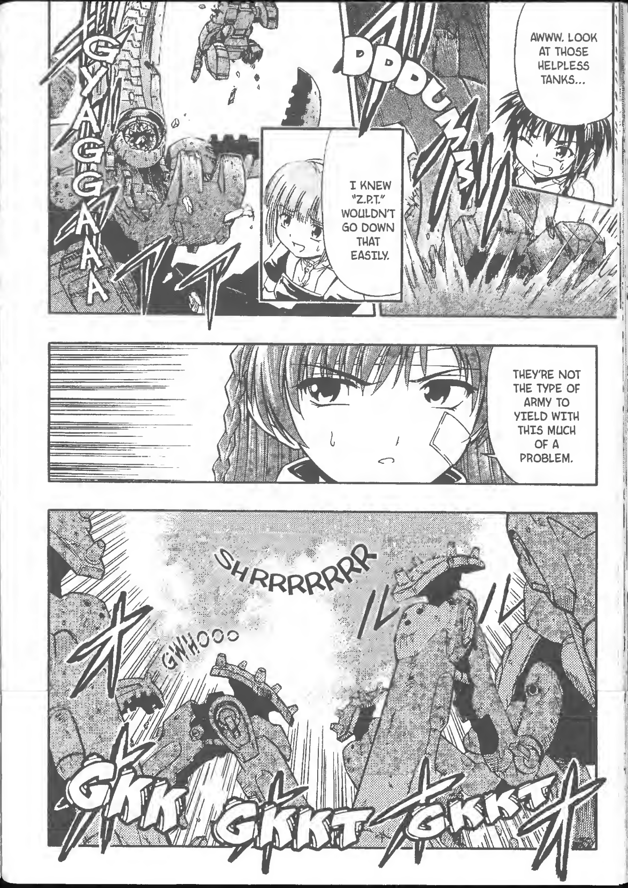

BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM
H-HEY...
BOMBARDING RIGHT AWAY...
DID THEY FIND US?
IT'S GONNA HIT US IF WE DON'T MOVE!
STAY COOL! IT'S MORE DANGEROUS TO MOVE!!
THEY'RE ONLY BOMBARDING THE...
KABOOOOM

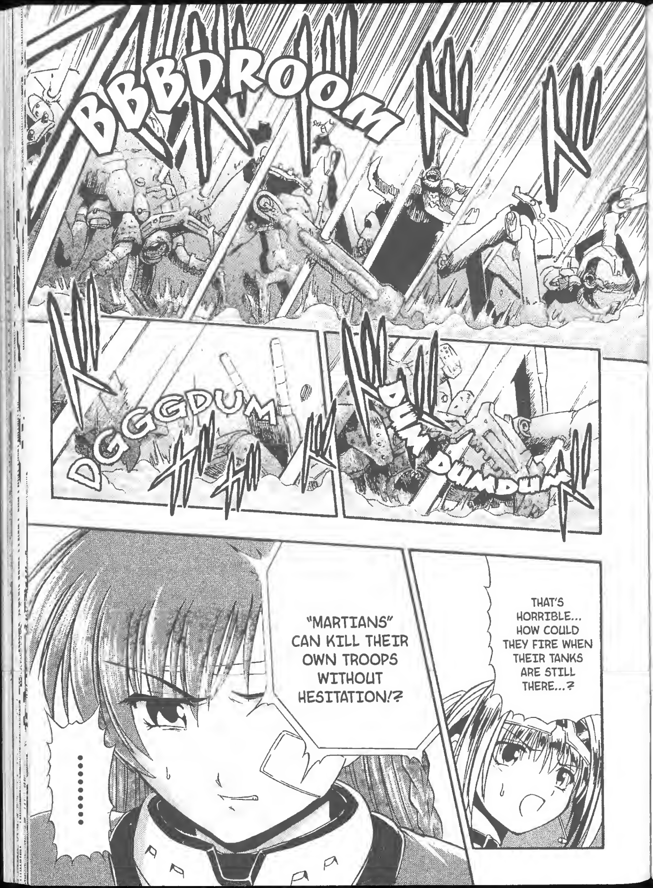

WHAAAT!? ARE THEY GOING TO BLOW UP THE "WALL"?
GKK GKKT
BADOOOM
ROWDY WAY TO ATTACK...
BUT...
GKKT
THEY HAVEN'T BROKEN THE "MAGNETIC LINE OF FORCE"!!
KRAK
ZZAPT
N-NO, SOMETHING'S WEIRD...
THIS RUMBLING IS...
ZZZZSSSSH
GWSSH
N-ZZZSSS

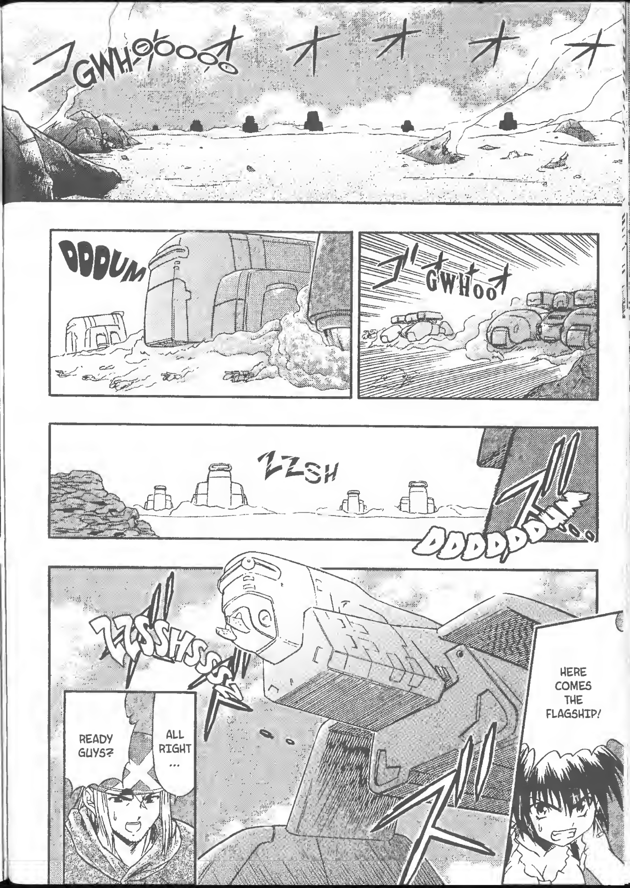

DGGGOOOOOOOM
EXPLOSION FROM... UNDERGROUND?
G-GG-GGGRRMMMM
"EARTH PENETRATOR"...
THEY'VE CUT OFF THE GENERATOR CIRCUIT FOR THE "MAGNETIC LINE OF FORCE" SURROUNDING Z.P.T...
THIS WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN...
YET, IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THE "WALL" THAT HAD PREVENTED ENTRIES OF WEAPONRY FOR OVER 30 YEARS...
COULD BE DESTROYED SO EASILY...

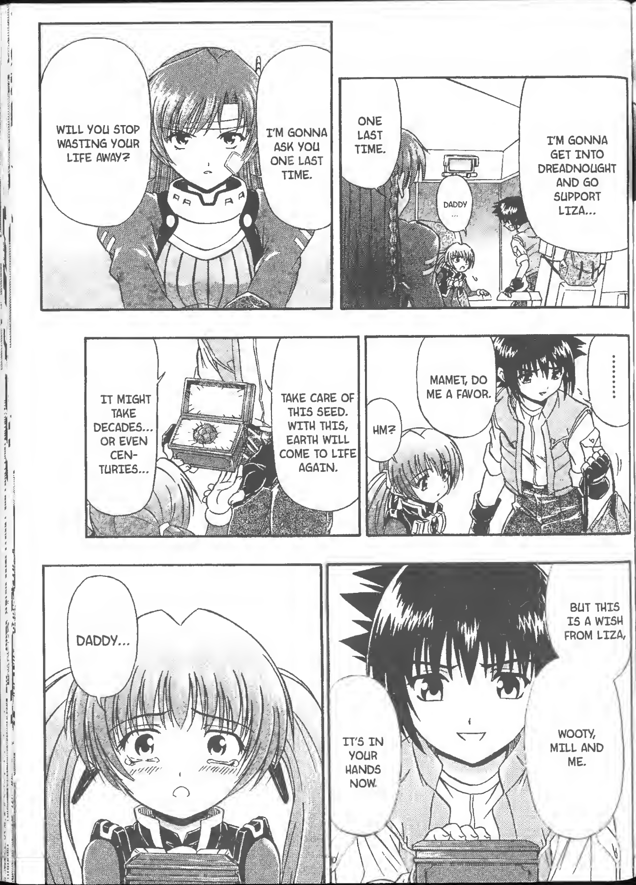

GRRRM
DDDDDMM
NOW, THERE ARE NO OBSTACLES FOR THEM!!
DUMDUMDUMDUMDUM
THEY'RE COMING, THEY'RE COMING!!
DUM DUM DUM
THEY'RE FAST! MAYBE THEY'LL DESTROY Z.P.T. EVEN BEFORE WE ATTACK THEM...
BUT WE HAVE TO WAIT!
FOR THE RIGHT CHANCE...

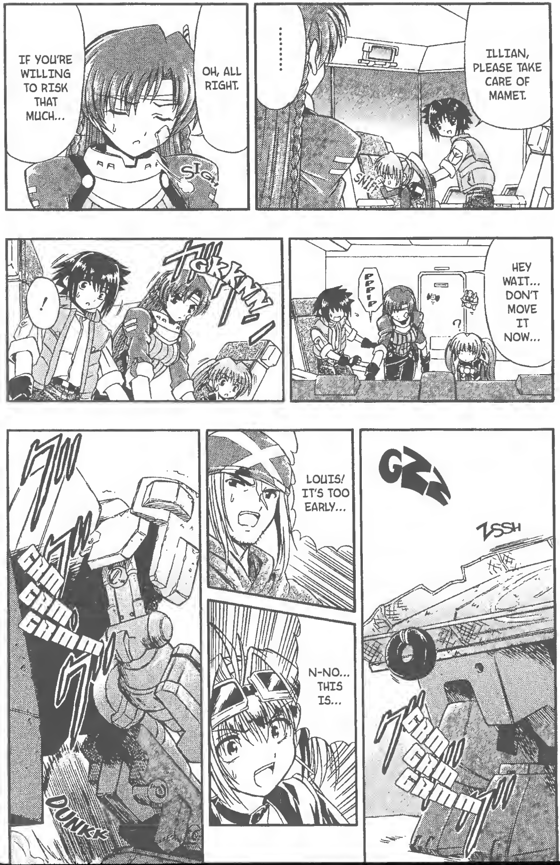

THEY'RE COMING INSIDE THE WALL IN BULK!
DDMMMM
PLEASE DON'T FIND US...
PLEASE PASS QUICKLY...!
DDDUMM
TWITCH
DDDDUMM
HISSSSH
TWITCH
"SCAVENGERS"!!
GGGUHHHOH
Z.P.T. MUST'VE CALLED THEM HERE...

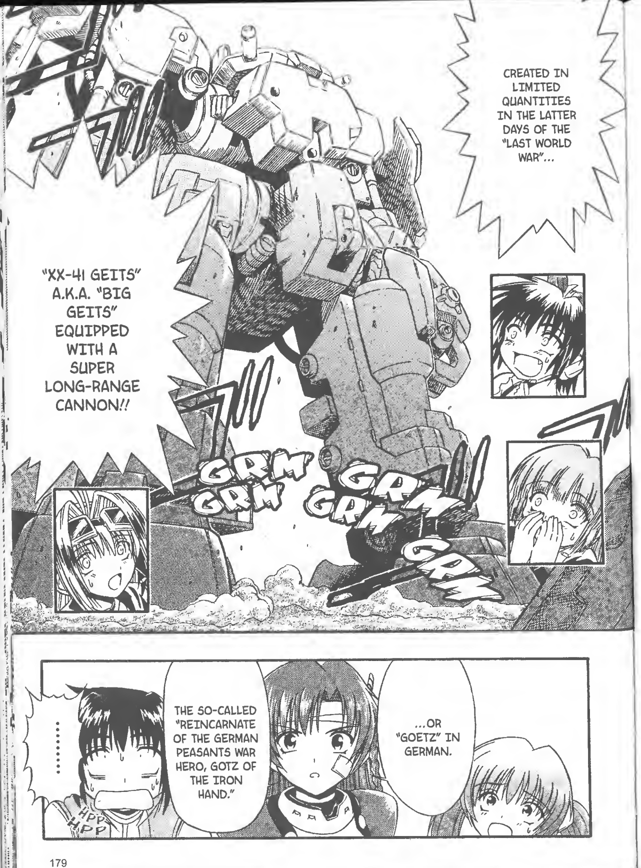

AWWW. LOOK AT THOSE HELPLESS TANKS...
DDDUMM
I KNEW "Z.P.T." WOULDN'T GO DOWN THAT EASILY.
GYAGGAAA
THEY'RE NOT THE TYPE OF ARMY TO YIELD WITH THIS MUCH OF A PROBLEM.
SHRRRRRRR
GWHOOO
GKK GKKT GKKT

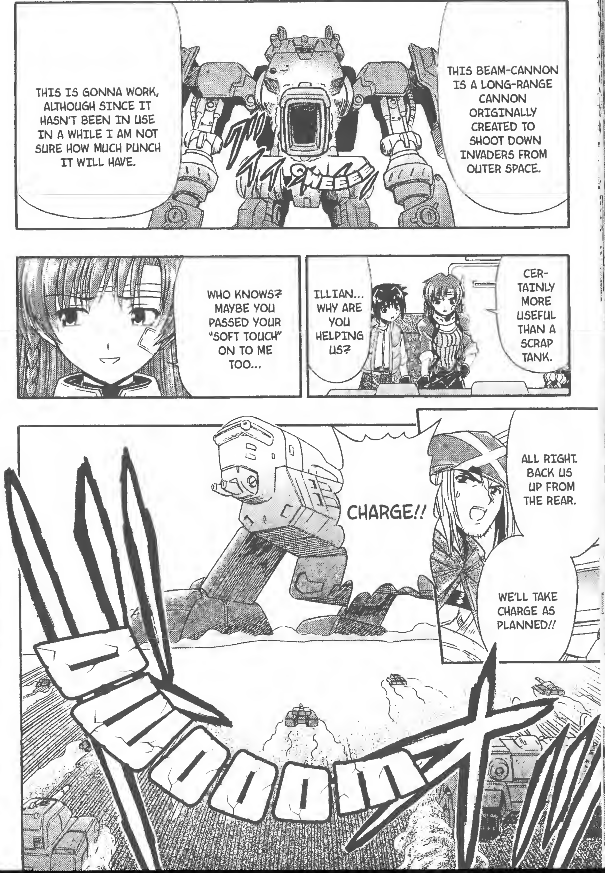

BBBDROOM
DUM DUMDUMDUM
DGGGDUM
THAT'S HORRIBLE... HOW COULD THEY FIRE WHEN THEIR TANKS ARE STILL THERE...?
"MARTIANS" CAN KILL THEIR OWN TROOPS WITHOUT HESITATION!?
....

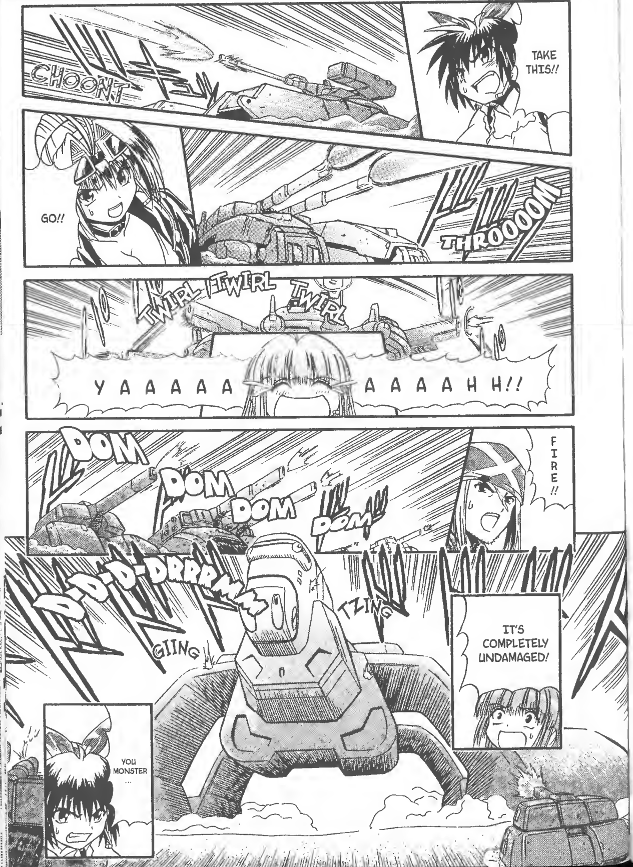

ゴオオオオオ
GWHOOOOOO
ゴオ
GWHooo
DDDUM
ZZSH
DDDDDDUM...
HERE COMES THE FLAGSHIP!
ALL RIGHT...
READY GUYS?
ZZSSHSSSS

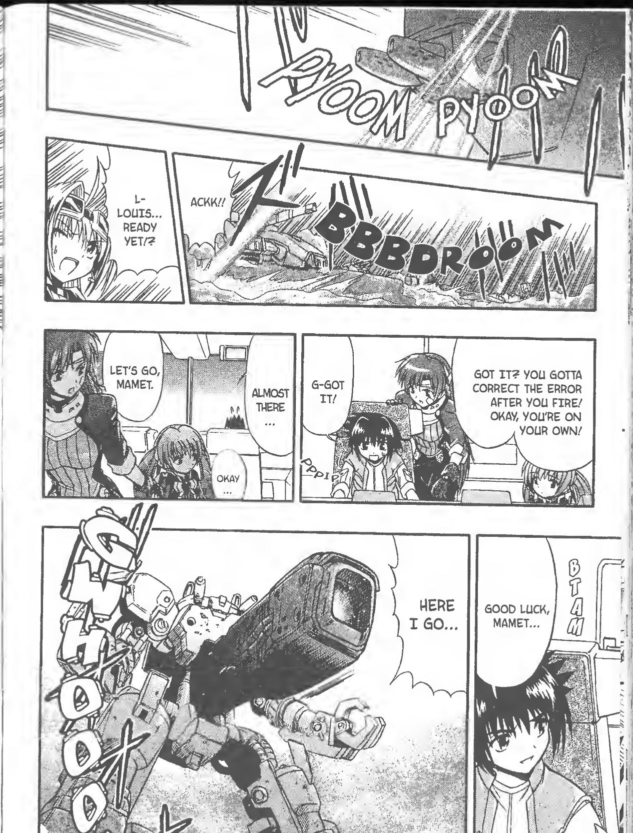

I'M GONNA GET INTO DREADNOUGHT AND GO SUPPORT LIZA...
ONE LAST TIME.
DADDY...
I'M GONNA ASK YOU ONE LAST TIME.
WILL YOU STOP WASTING YOUR LIFE AWAY?
....
MAMET, DO ME A FAVOR.
HM?
TAKE CARE OF THIS SEED. WITH THIS, EARTH WILL COME TO LIFE AGAIN.
IT MIGHT TAKE DECADES... OR EVEN CENTURIES...
BUT THIS IS A WISH FROM LIZA,
WOOTY, MILL AND ME.
IT'S IN YOUR HANDS NOW.
DADDY...

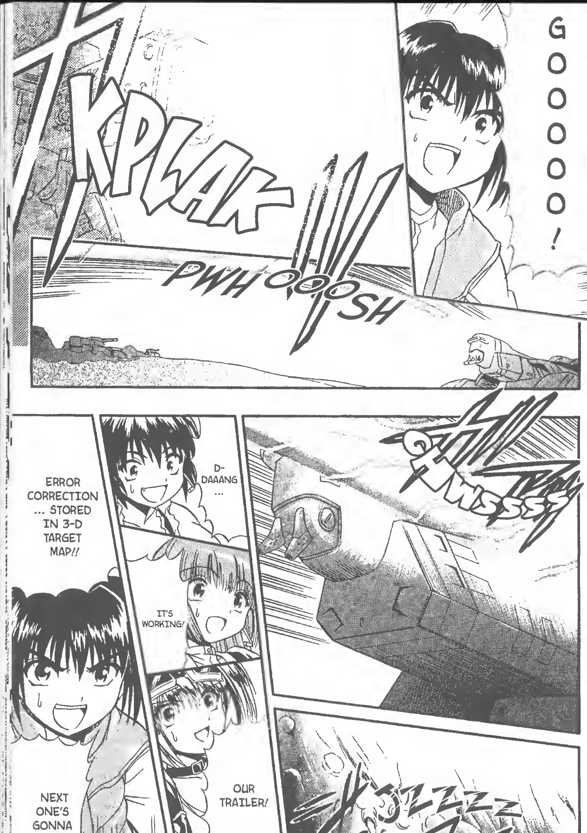

ILLIAN, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF MAMET.
......
SNIFF
OH, ALL RIGHT.
IF YOU'RE WILLING TO RISK THAT MUCH...
SIGH
HEY WAIT... DON'T MOVE IT NOW...
PPPIP
?
GKKKN
!
GZZ
ZSSH
GRM GRM GRMM
LOUIS! IT'S TOO EARLY...
N-NO... THIS IS...
GRM GRM GRMM
DUNKK

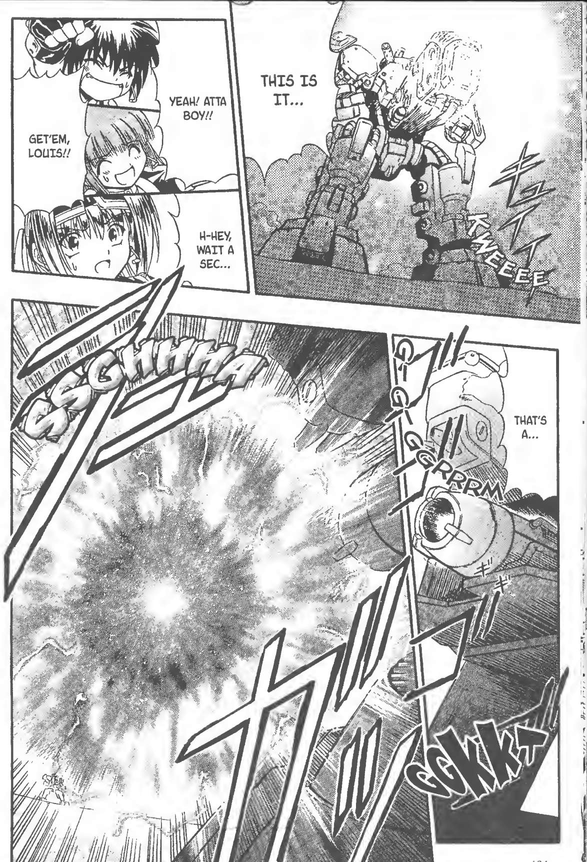

CREATED IN LIMITED QUANTITIES IN THE LATTER DAYS OF THE "LAST WORLD WAR"...
"XX-41 GEITS" A.K.A. "BIG GEITS" EQUIPPED WITH A SUPER LONG-RANGE CANNON!!
GRM GRM GRM GRM GRM GRM
...OR "GOETZ" IN GERMAN.
THE SO-CALLED "REINCARNATE OF THE GERMAN PEASANTS WAR HERO, GOTZ OF THE IRON HAND."
......
HPP HPP

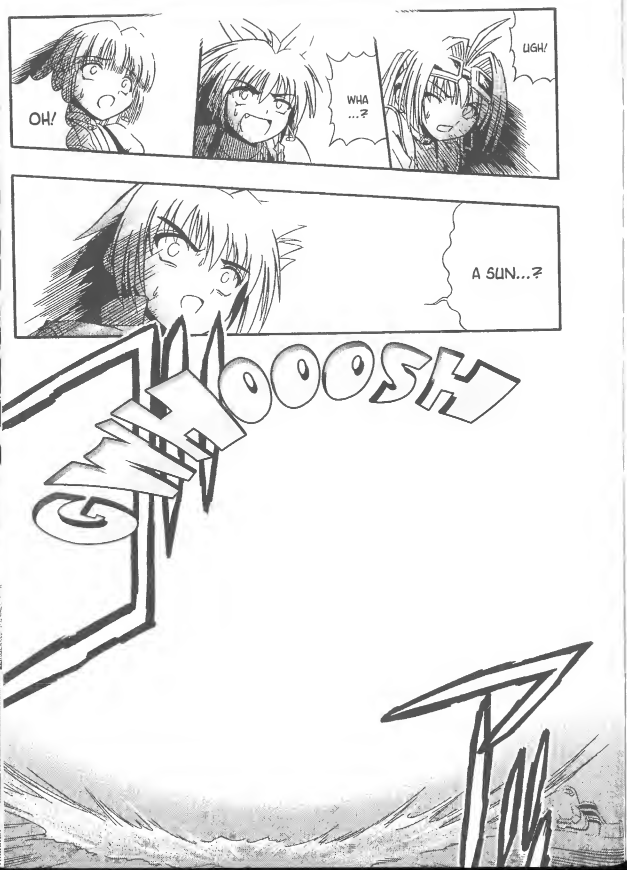

THIS BEAM-CANNON IS A LONG-RANGE CANNON ORIGINALLY CREATED TO SHOOT DOWN INVADERS FROM OUTER SPACE.
WHEEE
THIS IS GONNA WORK, ALTHOUGH SINCE IT HASN'T BEEN IN USE IN A WHILE I AM NOT SURE HOW MUCH PUNCH IT WILL HAVE.
CERTAINLY MORE USEFUL THAN A SCRAP TANK.
ILLIAN... WHY ARE YOU HELPING US?
WHO KNOWS? MAYBE YOU PASSED YOUR "SOFT TOUCH" ON TO ME TOO...
ALL RIGHT. BACK US UP FROM THE REAR.
WE'LL TAKE CHARGE AS PLANNED!!
CHARGE!!
DOOOOOOM

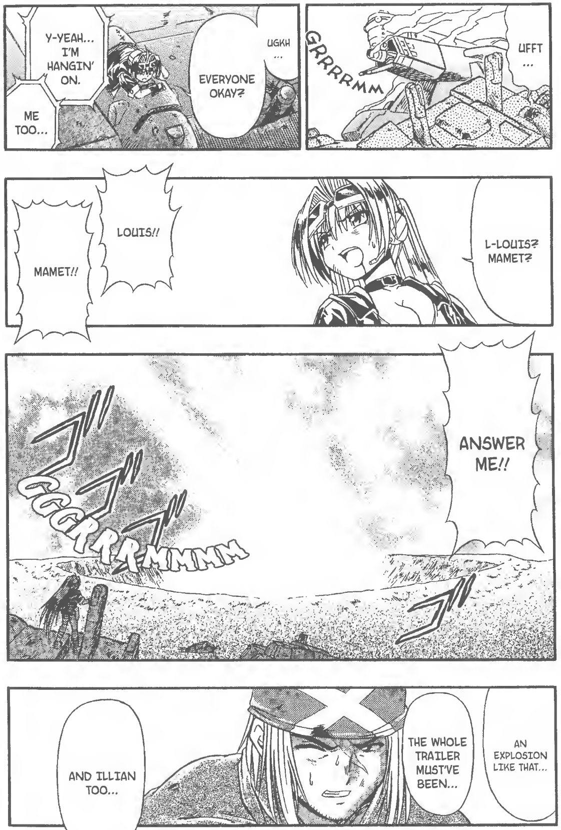

TAKE THIS!!
CHOON
THROOOOM
GO!!
TWIRL TWIRL TWIRL
YAAAAAAAAAAH!!
FIRE!!
DOM DOM DOM DOM
TZING
D-D-D-DRRRMMM
GIING
IT'S COMPLETELY UNDAMAGED!
YOU MONSTER ...

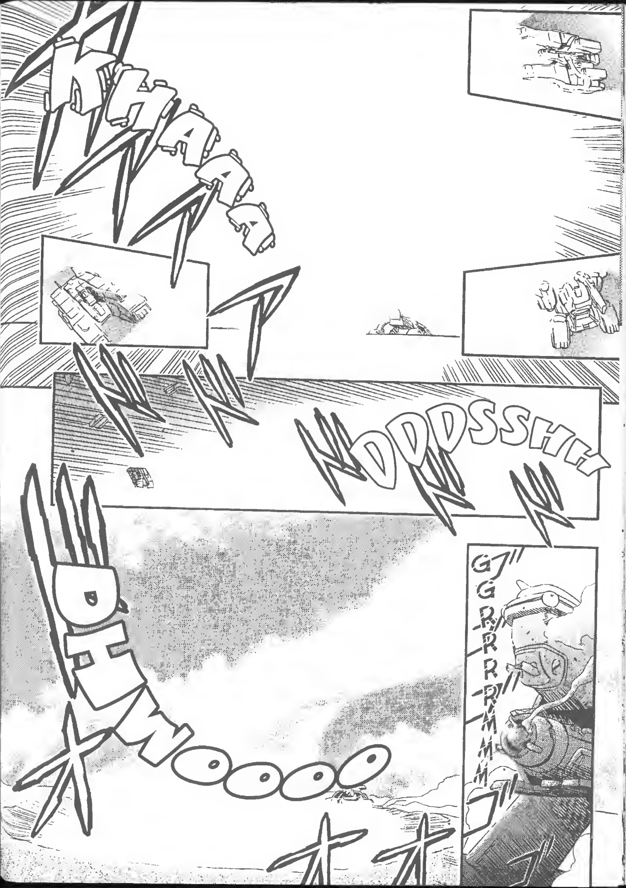

PYOOM PYOOM
ACKK!!
BBBDROOM
L-LOUIS... READY YET!?
GOT IT? YOU GOTTA CORRECT THE ERROR AFTER YOU FIRE! OKAY, YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN!
G-GOT IT!
PPPIP
ALMOST THERE ...
OKAY ...
LET'S GO, MAMET.
BTAM
GOOD LUCK, MAMET...
HERE I GO...
GWHOOOOO

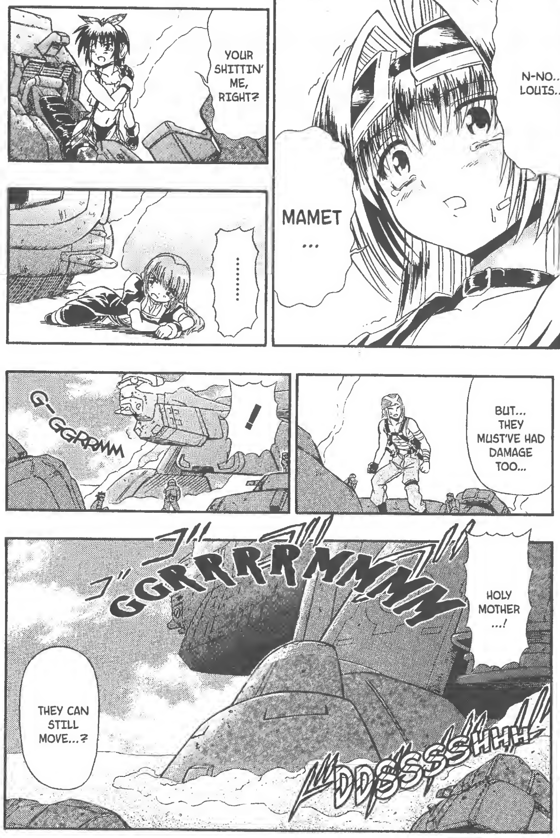

GOOOOOO!
KPLAK
PWHOOOOSH
GHWSSSS
D-DAAANG ...
ERROR CORRECTION ... STORED IN 3-D TARGET MAP!!
IT'S WORKING!
OUR TRAILER!
NEXT ONE'S GONNA HIT!!
ZZZZZ

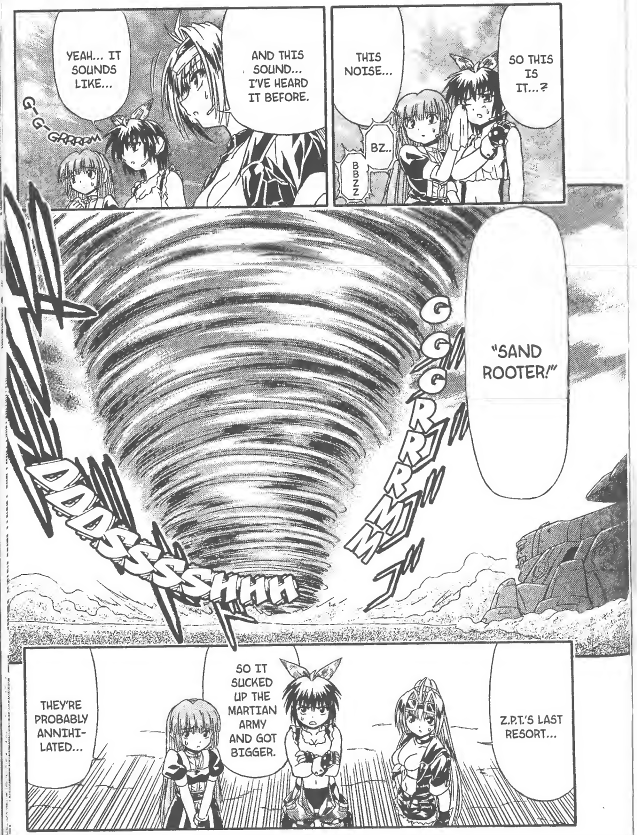

THIS IS IT...
KWEEEE
YEAH! ATTA BOY!!
GET'EM, LOUIS!!
H-HEY, WAIT A SEC...
THAT'S A...
GI-GI-GGRRRM
GSGHWA
GGKKT

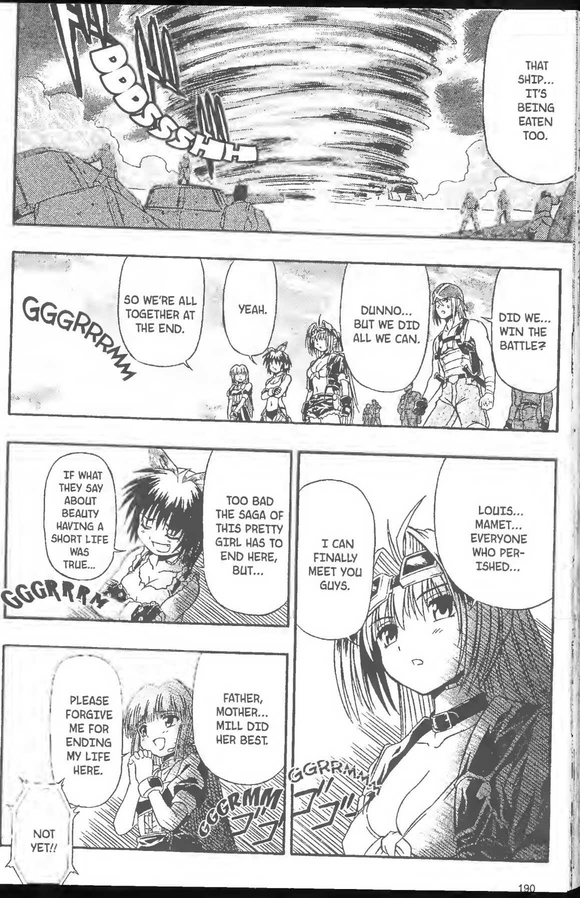

UGH!
WHA ...?
OH!
A SUN...?
GWHOOOSH

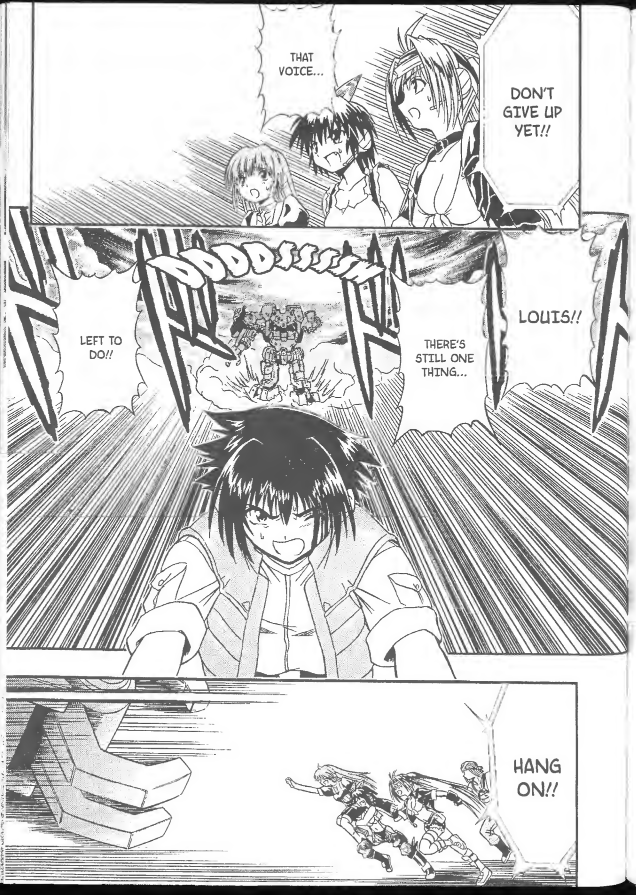

UFFT...
GRRRRMM
UGKH...
EVERYONE OKAY?
Y-YEAH... I'M HANGIN' ON.
ME TOO...
L-LOUIS? MAMET?
LOUIS!!
MAMET!!
ANSWER ME!!
GGGRRRMMMMM
AN EXPLOSION LIKE THAT...
THE WHOLE TRAILER MUST'VE BEEN...
AND ILLIAN TOO...

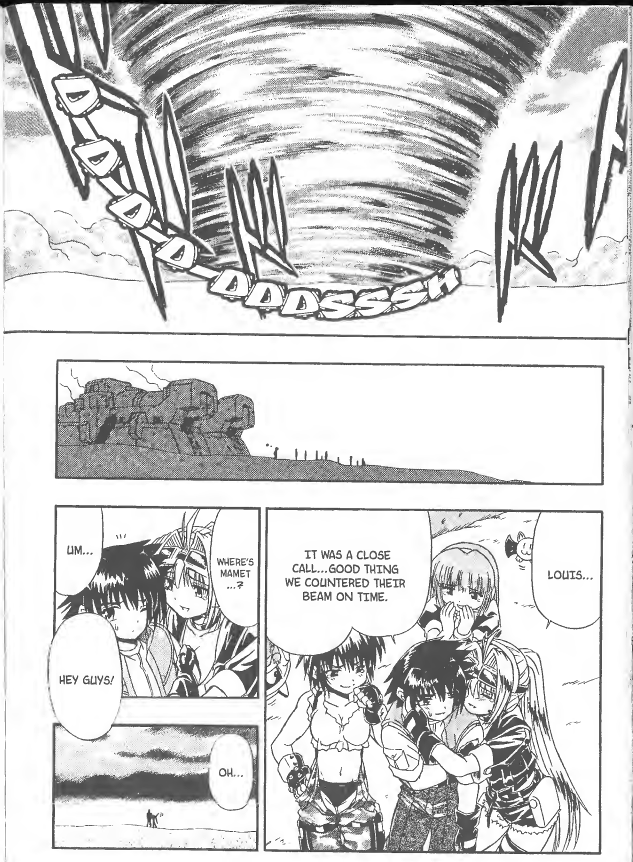

KHAAAA
WOOOSSHH
DHWOOOOO
GGRRRRRMMMM

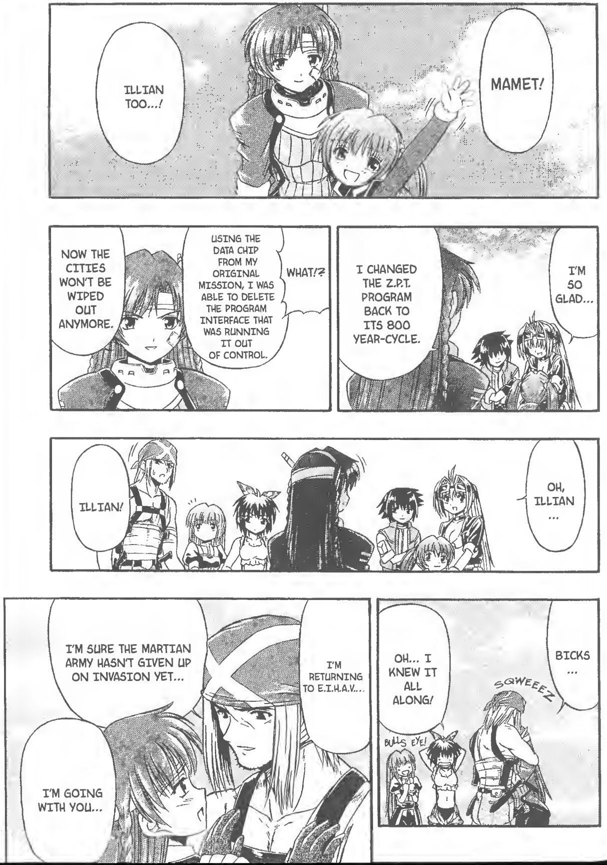

N-NO... LOUIS...
MAMET ...
YOUR SHITTIN' ME, RIGHT?
....
BUT... THEY MUST'VE HAD DAMAGE TOO...
!
G-GGRRMMM
HOLY MOTHER ...!
GGRRRRRMMMM
THEY CAN STILL MOVE...?
DDSSSSHHH

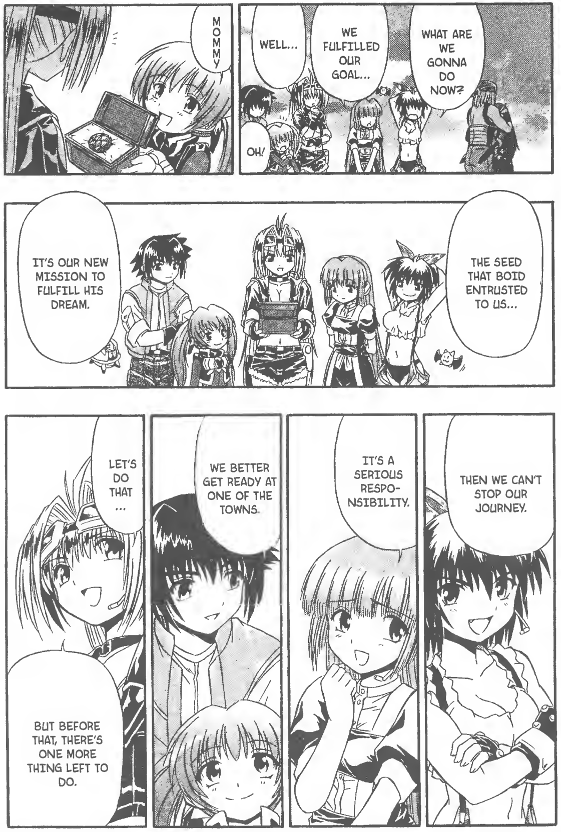

SO THIS IS IT...?
THIS NOISE...
BZ..
BBZZ
AND THIS SOUND... I'VE HEARD IT BEFORE.
YEAH... IT SOUNDS LIKE...
G-G-GRRRRM
"SAND ROOTER!"
GGGRRRMM
DDDSSSSHHH
Z.P.T.'S LAST RESORT...
SO IT SUCKED UP THE MARTIAN ARMY AND GOT BIGGER.
THEY'RE PROBABLY ANNIHILATED...

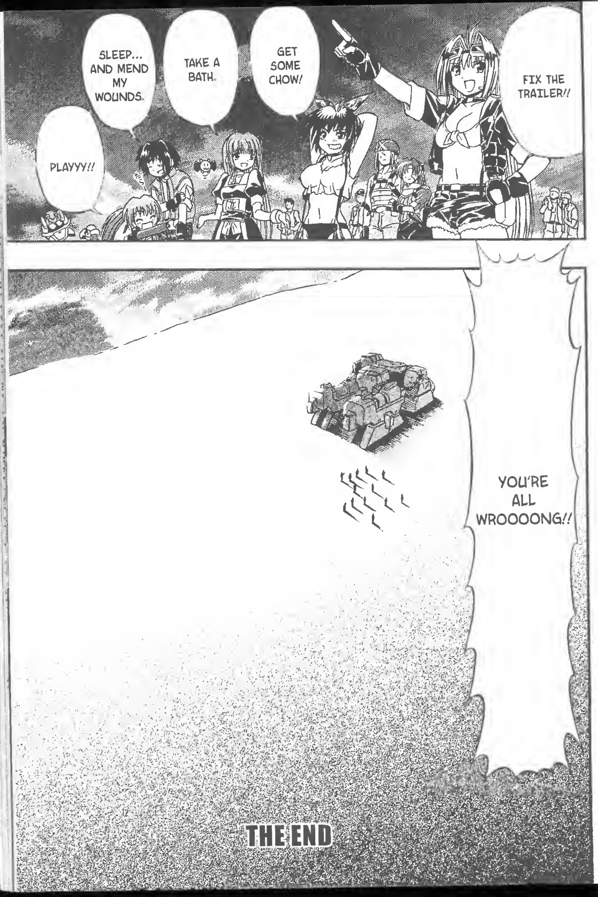

THAT SHIP... IT'S BEING EATEN TOO.
DDDSSSHH
DID WE... WIN THE BATTLE?
DUNNO... BUT WE DID ALL WE CAN.
YEAH.
SO WE'RE ALL TOGETHER AT THE END.
GGGRRRMM
LOUIS... MAMET... EVERYONE WHO PERISHED...
I CAN FINALLY MEET YOU GUYS.
TOO BAD THE SAGA OF THIS PRETTY GIRL HAS TO END HERE, BUT...
IF WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT BEAUTY HAVING A SHORT LIFE WAS TRUE...
GGGRRRM
GGRRMMM ゴゴゴ
FATHER, MOTHER... MILL DID HER BEST.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR ENDING MY LIFE HERE.
GGGRMM ゴゴ
NOT YET!!


DON'T GIVE UP YET!!
THAT VOICE...
LOUIS!!
THERE'S STILL ONE THING...
LEFT TO DO!!
DDDSSSSHH
HANG ON!!


DDDDDDDDSSSSH
IT WAS A CLOSE CALL...GOOD THING WE COUNTERED THEIR BEAM ON TIME.
LOUIS...
WHERE'S MAMET ...?
UM...
HEY GUYS!
OH...


MAMET!
ILLIAN TOO...!
I'M SO GLAD...
I CHANGED THE Z.P.T. PROGRAM BACK TO ITS 800 YEAR-CYCLE.
WHAT!?
USING THE DATA CHIP FROM MY ORIGINAL MISSION, I WAS ABLE TO DELETE THE PROGRAM INTERFACE THAT WAS RUNNING IT OUT OF CONTROL.
NOW THE CITIES WON'T BE WIPED OUT ANYMORE.
OH, ILLIAN ...
ILLIAN!
BICKS ...
OH... I KNEW IT ALL ALONG!
SQWEEEZ
BULLS EYE!
I'M RETURNING TO E.I.H.A.V...
I'M SURE THE MARTIAN ARMY HASN'T GIVEN UP ON INVASION YET...
I'M GOING WITH YOU...


WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO NOW?
WE FULFILLED OUR GOAL...
WELL...
OH!
MOMMY
THE SEED THAT BOID ENTRUSTED TO US...
IT'S OUR NEW MISSION TO FULFILL HIS DREAM.
THEN WE CAN'T STOP OUR JOURNEY.
IT'S A SERIOUS RESPONSIBILITY.
WE BETTER GET READY AT ONE OF THE TOWNS.
LET'S DO THAT ...
BUT BEFORE THAT, THERE'S ONE MORE THING LEFT TO DO.


FIX THE TRAILER!!
GET SOME CHOW!
TAKE A BATH.
SLEEP... AND MEND MY WOUNDS.
PLAYYY!!
YOU'RE ALL WROOOONG!!
THE END

どちらか女の子として上か!!
カッ
ガ

LET'S MEET SOMEWHERE ANOTHER TIME.

KEN, YUSUKE

たったひとつの種
心ある者に!!
中枢思考回路の点検は
あと100年後のハズだが?
ルイ!!
まだやれる事は
ある!!

できましたわよ――♡
ゴハン
ぴろろん

POSTSCRIPT

FOR ME THIS WAS MY FIRST SERIALIZATION, FIRST MAJOR PROJECT, FIRST TIME WORKING WITH AN ORIGINAL AUTHOR, FIRST STORY MANGA, FIRST S.F. MANGA, FIRST MECH-MANGA, FIRST 30PG PLUS EPISODE (I HAD ONLY WRITTEN A 20PG PER EPISODE)... THIS WORK HAS BEEN FULL OF FIRST-TIMES FOR ME, AND I CAN ONLY HOPE THAT I WAS ABLE TO FULLY BRING TO LIFE ALL OF THESE ELEMENTS IN TO A FUN AND ENTERTAINING MANGA.

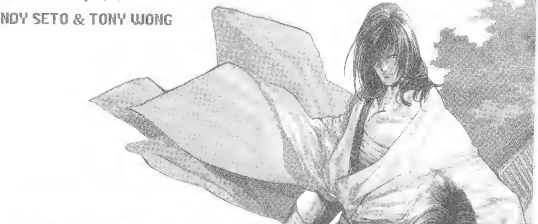
AS I WRITE THIS SENTENCE, ONE MONTH HAS ALREADY PASSED SINCE I DREW THE FINAL EPISODE, AND AS MORE TIME PASSES, I FIND PLACES IN THE MANGA WHERE I COULD HAVE IMPROVED ON MY WORK. ALTHOUGH I TRIED THE BEST I COULD AT THE TIME, I CAN ONLY HOPE THAT IN THE FUTURE I WILL SURPASS MYSELF. MANGA IS SUCH A TOUGH ART.

UNLIKE THE ORIGINAL WORK, MAMET ACCEPTS LIZA AND LOUIS AS HER "MOMMY AND DADDY." THIS WAS MY IDEA. I WANTED TO DRAW THE FIVE MEMBERS AS A FAMILY, BUT I WONDER HOW WELL I DID THAT... WAS IT THE RIGHT CHOICE TO PICTURE MAMET AS AN HONEST, PLAYFUL CHILD?

ALSO, STORY #9, "CAT FIGHT" AND AN EXTRA FEATURE MANGA, "A TYPICAL DAY OF THE J.F. CREW," WERE ORIGINAL STORIES THAT I CREATED... I'M SORRY, BUT I LIKE DRAWING STUPID STORIES.

THANK YOU FOR ALL THOSE WHO SUPPORTED ME. I'M SORRY FOR ALL THE PEOPLE I TROUBLED. I WILL TRY MY BEST TO LEARN FROM THIS EXPERIENCE AND INCORPORATE IT INTO MY FUTURE WORKS. I DON'T KNOW WHEN I WILL SEE EVERYONE AGAIN, BUT WHEN THAT DAY COMES, I HOPE I DELIVER PROMISING WORK.

鍵を持たないアンドロイドじゃ
ママ…
パパ…
ウーティおねーちゃん
ミルおねーちゃん…
やった! やりましたわ!!
ヒロワアアア



the Four Constables

ANDY SETO & TONY WONG

When it comes to creative team-ups, you can't get more impressive than comic giant Tony Wong locking pencils with rising star - Andy Seto. They have come together to produce the comic adaptation of The 4 Constables - the critically acclaimed novel by Wen Rui-An. Four of China's supremely skilled assassin/detectives serve only their Master Zhuge Zhen-Wo - The Little Flower, who in turn is head bodyguard and advisor for China's all-powerful Emperor. These Imperial Constables act as protectors. With their venerable skill they root out potential usurpers and discern the cause of many strange occurrences happening during the Sung Dynasty!

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